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Casco Bay Weekly : 5 February 1998

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FEB 5, 1998

Casco Bay Weekly

Pick it up, Madeleine!

"The little transistor radio floated in the toilet,
and Madeleine was the culprit. She leaned against the counter,
rocking back and forth and whining at the top of her lungs. In that moment,

I wanted nothing in the world so much as permission to slap her as
hard as I could. There is exasperation and there is rage.

I had long since crossed into the latter."

Continued on page 10

Panic time, 5

"No" time, 16

Carnival time, 25

Illustration/Joanna Amato and Mark Knott

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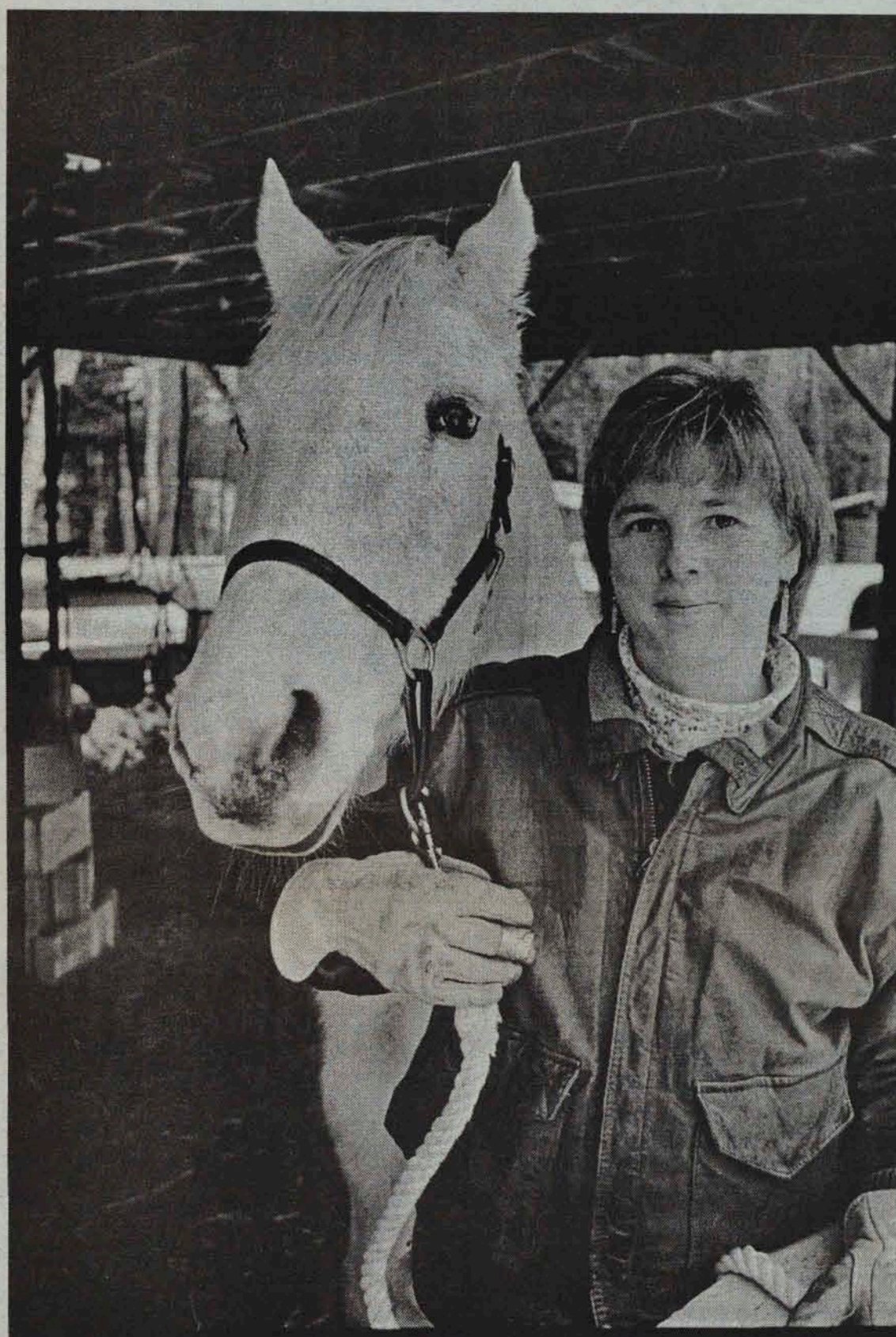
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Talk

A CONVERSATION WITH SARAH BRONSON



"There's a lot of satisfaction in seeing a child who has never moved outside of a wheelchair be able to look down at somebody instead of looking up."

Riding To The Top is a non-profit agency that offers therapeutic horseback riding lessons to Greater Portland children and adults with disabilities. Sarah Bronson, 37, of Windham, is president of the agency's board of directors. Bronson said the group is currently on hiatus, but members expect to purchase a stable and start teaching again by April.

What kinds of people volunteer for Riding To The Top?

We have people who come with an interest in horses. We have people who come with experience working with disabled people. We have people who just want to volunteer.

The biggest thing is just being committed to being there. Somebody, a child or an adult, is depending on them to be there. We try to get people to commit to a set time, so they develop a relationship with that person. And there are some physical requirements. They need to be able to walk for an hour, and trot at times — or run.

Do you remember the first person you taught?

The first person who just really stands out in my mind was when I was volunteering in a riding program in North Carolina. It was a little girl with autism. The first thing I remember about her was that she really didn't want to get on this horse, and she couldn't tolerate being on him very long the

first time. By the second or third session, she was starting to hold the reins.

You must have such sweet memories from giving lessons.

One of the most vivid memories I have was of a little boy who had cerebral palsy, and was very, very tight. His muscles were in spasm all the time. He just wouldn't bend at the hips or the knees or the ankles. I back-rotted with him, so I was actually on the horse, with him sitting in front of me. After riding with him, it was amazing to see how much he loosened up.

One day when I was riding with him, we were pretending that he was an airplane. I had his arms all the way out, and we were just rolling from side to side. I couldn't see his face, but he had the biggest peals of laughter coming out of him. It was something that gave him a little bit of freedom from his body.

How many helpers do you need?

Depending on the level of the rider, there's usually between one and four volunteers for each rider. Somebody who needed a back-rider would have a back-rider, two side-walkers and a leader, then an instructor who's leading the class. We have huge volunteer needs.

Interview by Laura Conaway; photo by Colin Malakie



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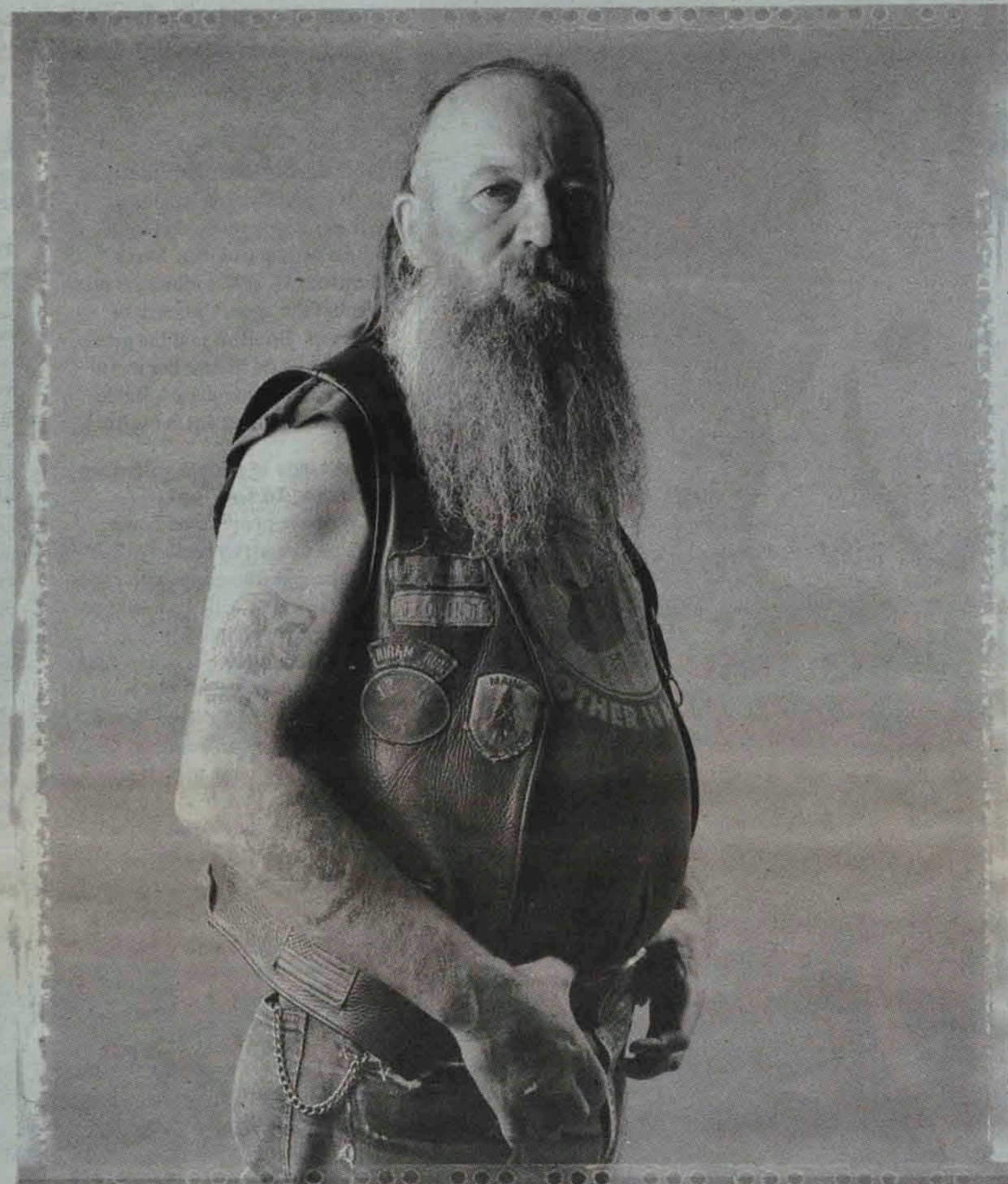
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Panic on

We don't want to be accused of yelling fire in a crowded movie theater, but Democrats watching the blockbuster production about choosing the party's gubernatorial nominee — it's called "Titanic Disappointment" — might want to start edging toward the exits.

The frontrunner for the Democratic nomination is James Bowers (possible campaign slogan: "Who?") of Washington (the one in Maine), an accountant, former state representative and current party treasurer.

That he is almost completely unknown is cause for concern. That he lasted just one term in Augusta before being defeated for re-election is a worry. That he may be the only volunteer foolish enough to take on independent Gov. Angus King is a reasonable excuse for trampling over the slow and weak in a mad rush to escape.

Well, almost. Those Dems still trying to reach safety by walking in a brisk but orderly fashion should be informed that the alternative to Bowers seems to be Westbrook state Rep. Bill Lemke, a party maverick best known as the only legislator with a "D" after his name to vote against the 1997 budget. Lemke, an historian, has also devoted himself to such causes as creating a single-chamber legislature, establishing the office of lieutenant governor and opposing the Bugs Bunny stamp because Maine's own Joshua Chamberlain has never been granted a similar honor.

Bowers said he's definitely running. Lemke said he's thinking about it. Democrats poised to jump ship can take heart in the fact that on the other side of the iceberg, Republicans, whose likely candidates are state Rep. Henry Joy (R-The Lost World) and former state education commissioner and unsuccessful legislative candidate Leo Martin, are also engaged in a mad battle to gain space in the lifeboats.

Bring the family

Annette Hoglund's days as the bingo queen of Maine politics may be numbered. If a bill before the Legislature to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Gambling is passed, Hoglund will have to find another way to raise the big bucks she's been pumping through her campaign committee.

In 1996 and 1997, Hoglund, a former Democratic state representative from Portland, raised over a million dollars — more money than any legislative candidate in Maine history — for her campaigns for the State House. She did it by running bingo games at Yankee Bingo, a Portland hall owned in part by herself and her family. The fundraising was legal, although the state ethics commission found Hoglund failed to disclose all the money she took in. Hoglund's campaign finance forms indicated her receipts from bingo were just

\$67,000. She could be fined as much as \$5,000 for that little oversight.

Meanwhile, the Legislature's legal and veterans affairs committee is considering a bill to tighten up regulations on bingo. It would turn enforcement of laws governing the games over to the state police, and allow the chief of that agency to suspend or revoke the licenses of violators. More importantly, it would put an end to the cozy relationship between the bingo halls and some of the charities they support.

Maine law allows only nonprofit organizations to run bingo games. The halls make their money by renting space and equipment to the charities. But many halls devote much of their time to games run for nonprofits that are operated by the hall's owners or their relatives, allowing the bingo entrepreneurs to profit twice from the same rental. In Yankee Bingo's case, that charity was Hoglund's campaign organization. The advisory committee bill would outlaw that practice by making it

illegal for the bingo establishments to rent space to their owners or members of the owners' immediate families.

The committee has scheduled a public hearing on the bill on Feb. 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the State House. The governor's office and the state Department of Public Safety are expected to testify in favor of the measure. It'll be interesting to see who turns up to speak in opposition.

Workin' on a building

"I don't know if you know it or not, but the governor hates new buildings. You have to go a long way to convince him your existing infrastructure is inadequate, and we have a long way to go to convince the governor new buildings are the answer."

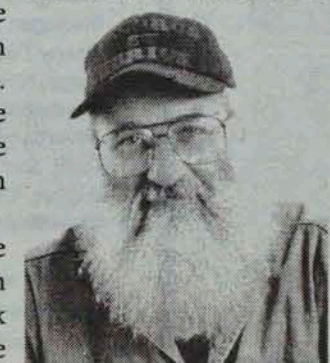
— Kay Rand, Gov. Angus King's legislative director, quoted in the *Kennebec Journal* on Jan. 26, explaining why King was not supporting construction of new state mental hospitals.

"If I'm serious about economic development of rural Maine and Washington County, I need to put my money where my mouth is I could not reconcile promoting Washington County as a destination for new businesses and not do what I was urging others to do."

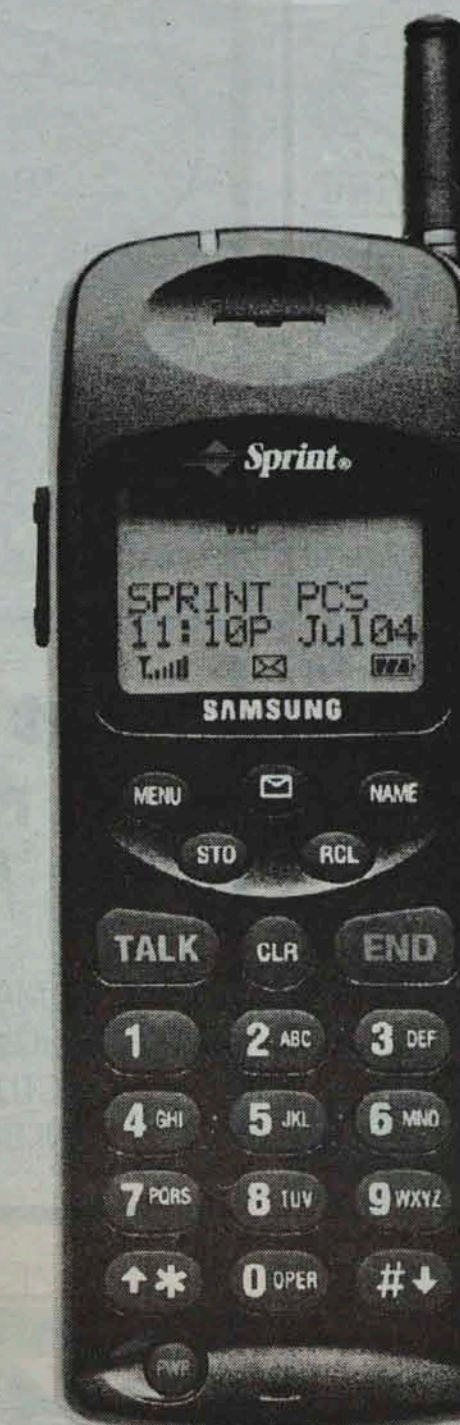
— King, quoted in the *Bangor Daily News* on Jan. 22, explaining why he wants to spend an additional \$12 million to build a new state prison in Washington County.

"Prime ministers are wedded to the truth," wrote Saki, "but like other married couples they sometimes live apart." Send suggestions for marital counseling to CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Or e-mail ishmaelia@gwi.net with the divorce papers.

politics and other mistakes



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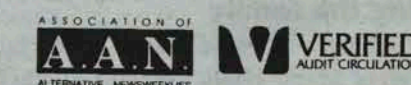
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Reporters: Sharon Bass, Laura Conaway
Assistant Editor, Arts & Features: Zoe S. Miller **Dostoyevski's Hat:** Allen Dammann
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Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:
Bobby McFerrin, "CircleSongs" • "Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil" soundtrack • Etta James, "At Last" • Tracy Chapman, "New Beginning"



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Phone • 775-6601
Fax • 775-1615
E-mail:
editor@cbw.maine.com

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loose change

Stock prices? No one cares. Interest rates? Boring. Economic forecasts? Just guessing. But we do think it's safe to interpret the following figures, gathered by CBW's staff, as indicating we have too much free time on our hands.

■ Percentage of piercings by body part performed at Portland Tattoo, December 1996-January 1997:
navel: 60
tongue: 15
eyebrow: 10
other: 5



tongue: 60
navel: 15
eyebrow: 10
other: 5

■ Headlines on news releases received on Jan. 27:
From the Maine Department of Public Safety: "Air Bag Cutoff Switches Now Available"
From AAA Northern New England: "AAA Survey Finds 62 Percent of Repair Shops Unwilling to Install Air-Bag Switches"

■ Number of deaths from all causes in Cumberland County:
1995: 2,286
1996: 2,256

■ Number of deaths from all causes in Maine:
1995: 11,709
1996: 11,700

■ We needed to spend \$1.75 to learn this? "[O]ne of the state's leading economists said ... the ice storm of 1998 represents a disaster for the state and the Maine economy as a whole."
— *Maine Sunday Telegram*, Jan. 18

■ Number of days until the Portland Sea Dogs home opener (as of Feb. 5):
actual: 71
perceived: 71,000.

"Money is like muck," said Francis Bacon, "not good unless spread." Spread a little muck about money our way by writing CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or you can e-mail us at editor@cbw.maine.com.

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ICON	ADVERTISER

Maybe you were curious as to how this rag managed to break that big story about plans to build a convention center and hotel on Portland's waterfront ("Harboring secrets," 1.22.98). How come, some readers asked, the *Portland Press Herald* was unaware of that major development? Well, it turns out the *Press Herald* knew all about it.

news-O-rama



That's because the paper's parent company, Guy Gannett Communications, is one of the parties seeking to build a convention center. According to a belated story published Feb. 2, Gannett wants to turn a lot it owns on Congress Street into such a facility. It's still not clear if the company suppressed the news because it didn't want to give publicity to a rival plan, or because it feared public scrutiny would interfere with behind-the-scenes negotiations to secure public funding for the project.

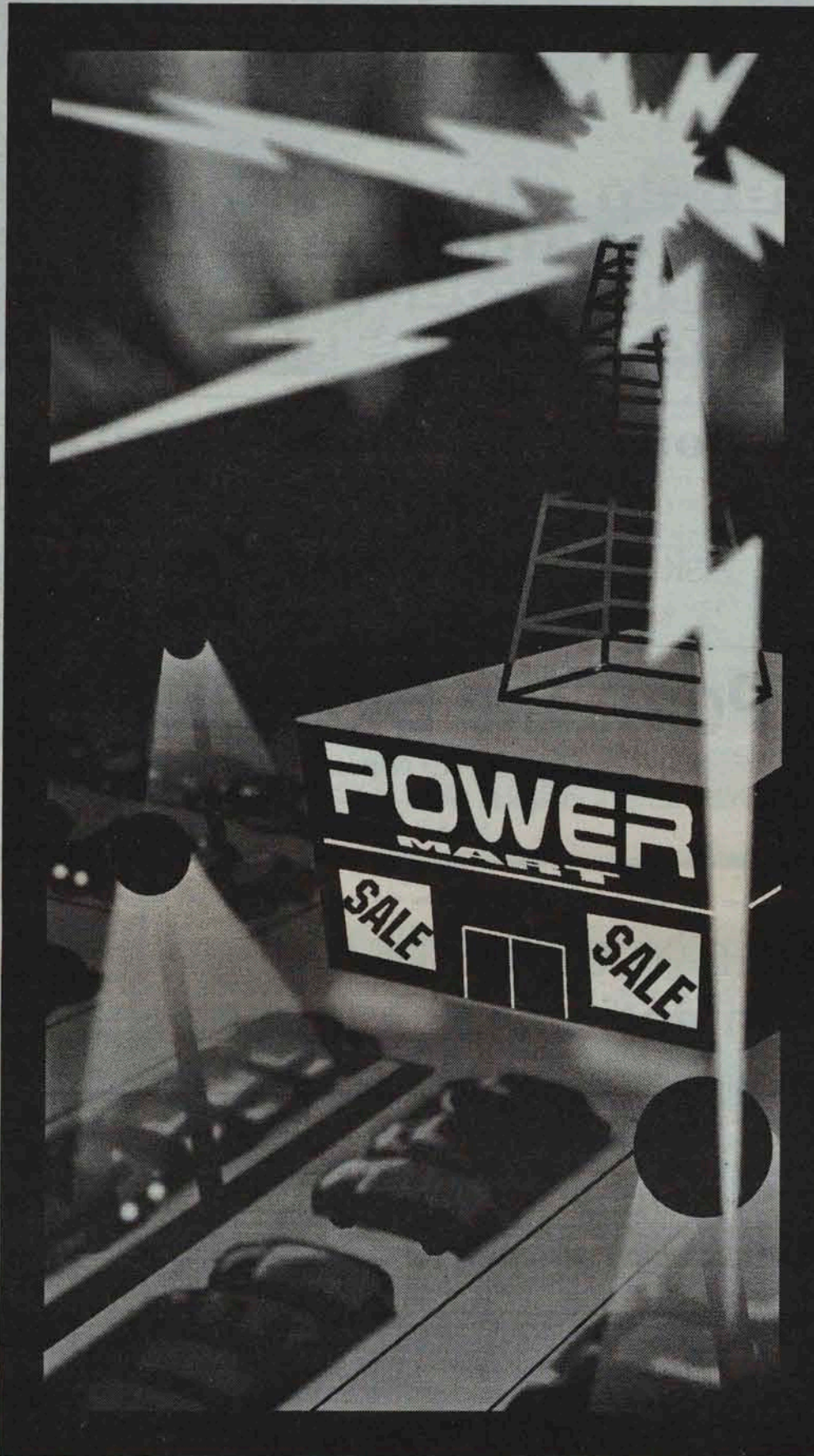
■ More puzzling silence. When **Portland Symphony Orchestra conductor Toshiyuki Shimada** was arrested for hitting his wife, there was no noise from domestic violence groups. When the symphony announced it would take no action as a result of the arrest, all was silence. Cape Elizabeth police said Shimada struck Eva Virsik-Shimada with his hand on Jan. 26. The Shimadas, in a written statement, claimed they were stressed out, and "turned to the police for assistance and mediation." The message seems to be that it's OK to slug one's spouse if one is a prominent member of the arts community.

■ Speaking too soon. **Portland City Councilor Peter Rickett** has changed his mind about running for another term. On Feb. 2, Rickett issued a statement rescinding his earlier re-election announcement. "It has become evident," he said, "that the demands on me, personal, professional and political, far exceed the hours in a day." Rickett said he wants to devote more time to his family and job. His decision leaves two at-large council seats up for grabs. So far, Nathan Smith, Cyrus Hagge, Bruce Richardson and James Cloutier are running.

■ Don't bet on what they say. A majority of the Portland City Council was on record as opposing an **off-track betting** facility at Verrillo's near Maine Turnpike Exit 8. But at the Feb. 2 Council meeting, the license was approved 6-3. Councilors Rickett, Cheryl Leeman and Nick Mavodones said the applicants' agreement to allow annual city reviews and to pay for a traffic study convinced them to switch.

■ We're talking jail time. Anti-tax activist **Carol Palesky** was sentenced to nine months behind bars on Feb. 3. Palesky, who was convicted in August of forging names on referendum petitions, was also banned from the petitioning process for five years. While her conviction is appealed, Palesky will remain under house arrest in Topsham. *CBW*

CITY



ILLUSTRATION/JEFFREY CLIFFORD

Power shopping

Cumberland County officials plug cooperation to save you money on electric bills

■ LAURA CONAWAY

Competition among electric power generators, scheduled to begin in March 2000, is supposed to mean cheaper rates for home customers and small businesses. Except for one problem. By the time

you get a chance to select a juice provider, large companies may already have used their considerable purchasing might to muscle a lock on the cheapest kilowatts, leaving only the priciest electricity available to average consumers.

In an effort to prevent that from happening, leaders of a dozen area towns and cities are banding together to negotiate inexpensive rates for their residents, a process permitted under current law. But some local officials want to take that process one step further. Lead by the Cumberland County commissioners, they're asking state regulators for permission to establish the deal negotiated by communities as the so-called "standard offer." Under that arrangement, if customers wanted to seek better prices after deregulation, they'd be free to do so. If customers did nothing, they'd pay the municipal rate.

According to Commissioner Esther Clenott of Portland, individual consumers need to join forces in order to obtain the same low prices enjoyed by large companies. "If we don't put up a solid number of people to negotiate, we're not going to get good terms," Clenott said. "A big corporation can go out and negotiate good terms, but individuals won't be able to succeed at that."

In fact, industrial customers have already begun haggling with Central Maine Power (CMP) over prices. More than 25 of Maine's largest companies, including Bath Iron Works and Hannaford Bros., hammered out a favorable deal in 1995. Hannaford spokeswoman Susan Pierter declined to reveal just how little the grocery chain pays for electricity, but said the company used its size to persuade CMP to cut prices. "If we had just sat idly by, we would not be paying a fair rate," Pierter said.

According to CMP spokesman Mark Ishkanian, Hannaford and the other companies negotiated a 15-19 percent discount on their industrial rates, in return for agreeing to buy CMP's power for five years. Ishkanian said that kind of deal-making will only be possible for individual customers — most of whom will no longer buy electricity from CMP after 2000 — if they organize themselves into purchasing groups, or aggregates. "We're concerned that our customers get the best deal possible, and that will be achieved through some type of aggregation," Ishkanian said. "The benefits of competition are really going to accrue to the largest users, initially. We've always been concerned about small users not seeing any benefit from competition."

Members of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are now considering whether to allow municipalities to establish locally-bargained rates as the standard offer, the price customers would pay unless they chose to hunt for cheaper service. Though the concept of a municipal standard offer has won support from Cumberland County communities ranging from rural Harrison to urban Portland, it has met with resistance from the PUC.

PUC Commissioner Bill Nugent of Yarmouth said he hasn't yet been convinced that local officials could, in fact, negotiate the best possible deal for their residents. Nugent said state regulators will seek competitive bids from electric companies that want to provide a statewide standard offer. In other deregulated states, such as California, about 90 percent of customers opted to buy electricity through the standard offer, rather than seek a better deal. Nugent expects energy suppliers will propose attractive rates in an attempt to capture a majority of Maine customers.

"Is it likely that 20 municipalities ranging from the size of Hollis to the size of Portland will get as good a bid as the standard offer, which is statewide?" Nugent said. "If you're a power marketer, are you going to sharpen your pencil more for Hollis or for a number of counties across Maine?"

Nugent also cautioned that county officials' success in bargaining would depend on the quality of professional advice they received. Industry observers predict that after deregulation, consumers will be forced to deal with a power business in chaos, much the way phone customers have had to select service from numerous long-distance carriers aggressively marketing confusing deals.

In addition to deciding where to buy their electricity, Cumberland County residents may face the question of where to market the kilowatts generated by Regional Waste Systems (RWS), a Portland trash-to-energy incinerator. RWS' contract for selling electricity to CMP is on shaky ground, since the agreement lacks a specified price after 2000. Currently, RWS receives about 35 percent of its yearly income from CMP, at a rate of 7.8¢ per kilowatt hour. That's nearly twice the amount customers are expected to have to pay after deregulation, so RWS may find itself unable to find buyers willing to ante up at present prices.

Last year, a Portland task force studying problems at RWS proposed that the incinerator's 31 member communities consider buying the plant's power after 2000 — even if it's more expensive than other electricity — in order to guarantee a steady stream of revenue. It's not clear how that would impact attempts to obtain low prices for area residents. RWS manager Chuck Foshy, who has attended county meetings about buying electricity, failed to return calls seeking comment.

Local leaders suggested it's important for Cumberland County communities to prepare for deregulation now, even if that means leaving some issues, such as those at RWS, unsettled. If the PUC rejects the request for permission to bargain locally for their own standard offer, officials plan to ask the state Legislature for approval. "We need to take this thing one step at a time," said Portland City Councilor Cheryl Leeman, "and at least get ourselves in position to negotiate."

Catholic Charities

Conditional terms

Arnie Hanson Center gets relicensed, but with a few hitches

Portland's only shelter for alcoholics has been given a short-term conditional license by the state — for the first time ever. The Arnie Hanson Center, which is located on India Street and run by Catholic Charities, has until the middle of March to clean up its act if it wants to stay open for business.

Since October, the shelter has been under a city and state investigation for numerous problems, including 27 fire code violations. The shelter has also been cited for overcrowding and other safety issues, such as an unattended medication cart that clients have reportedly gotten into. In addition, employees have alleged some staff members abuse clients, and that Catholic Charities administrators have ignored their concerns.

The licensing review was conducted during two visits last December. Lynn Duby, director of the state Office of Substance Abuse (OSA), said clients, direct-line staff and managers were interviewed by state investigators. According to the Dec. 23 licensing report, Arnie Hanson "was found to be in marginal compliance with applicable regulations In lieu [sic] of the number of deficiencies noted, Arnie Hanson Center will have its license status changed to reflect a conditional status." Under normal conditions, the license would have been renewed for up to two years.

The report cites, among other problems, the absence of a current fire inspection certificate, improper storage of materials in the boiler room, a disposable razor and loose metal pipe in a client bathroom, no written agreement on the medical director's responsibilities and no written plan for personnel training.

As far as employee allegations of client abuse and incompetent staff, Duby said, "All of the issues people have been raising — staff quality, not just qualifications — Marjorie Love, the interim director, is looking into. We certainly have a ways to go." Duby said the state will review the shelter again in March.

OSA contributes about \$300,000 toward Arnie Hanson's \$680,000 yearly budget. The rest of the money comes from Medicaid, the city of Portland and the Maine State Housing Authority.

The state did "a terrific job with its assessment of the Arnie Hanson Center," said City Clerk Nadeen Daniels, who's overseeing the municipal investigation. "None of the [licensing report] was a surprise to me."

Gloria Dugan, executive director of Catholic Charities, said she's satisfied with the state's decision. "It was a very, very thorough licensing review. Obviously there are some things we have to straighten out. If you know a program is in trouble, you want to be darn careful."

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The little transistor radio floated in the toilet, and Madeleine was the culprit. She leaned against the counter, rocking back and forth and whining at the top of her lungs. In that moment, I wanted nothing in the world so much as permission to slap her as hard as I could. There is exasperation and there is rage. I had long since crossed into the latter.

I didn't slap her. It was right there in my hands, making my palms itch, but I stayed firmly on the acceptable side of the line between anger and physical violence. I did, however, throw her over my shoulder and haul her out of the bathroom. Then I tossed her into the easy chair in the living room, probably a little too hard.

"What is with you, Madeleine? Why do you do this?"

Even if these weren't rhetorical questions, I wouldn't have expected an answer. Madeleine isn't capable of that kind of response. I slid down against the wall next to the chair and rubbed my hands over my forehead. Madeleine's eyes were wide and she breathed quickly. It should not have been a surprise that she was afraid of me.



Seeing Madeleine for the first time is a shock. We keep people like her out of society's way, so her appearance evokes discomfort, the uneasiness "normal" people feel in the presence of someone with a disability. I only met her because I was paid to do so, paid \$7.02 an hour to work in a Portland group home where folks like Madeleine live out their lives.

At three and a half feet tall, she almost comes up to my waist. She might be able to touch the fabric beneath the collar of my shirt if she reached up as high as she could. Scoliosis has ravaged Madeleine's posture, so her head is cocked at a surreal angle and her right arm juts oddly out into space. The edges of her mouth are often crusted with a combination of fruit juice and whatever she last ate, which may not have been food. Her eyes are the fantastic blue of January sky, but they seem misty and unfocused unless they are narrowed in rage.

For all intents and purposes, Madeleine is completely deaf. She doesn't speak at all, although she uses sign language occasionally, and I suspect she knows more sign than she lets on.

Pick it up, Madeleine!

■ JESSE LOESBERG

The names of several people in this story have been changed to protect their privacy.



ILLUSTRATION/CHARMAINE DANIELS & MARK KNOTT

When she does use her vocal chords, it's in a particularly grating fashion. Madeleine can whine non-stop for an entire day.

When I use the word "whine," I'm not talking about the annoying tone of voice we all occasionally employ when we're not getting what we want. Madeleine's whine has shape and texture. It's like a car wreck or an old, rusty knife with a rotting wooden handle. It moves like broken glass across the soft skin of your stomach.

What makes Madeleine whine this way? Sometimes it's a soiled diaper. Other times, it's hunger. Most of the time it's a complete mystery. After a month or so of working with her, I decided her whine was a singular lament for the fundamental fact of her existence.

gravitational experiments. Not bowls of food, cups, pots on the stove. Not even knives. That's the one that really scared me. I watched her reach for a serrated utility knife once, and it gave me nightmares for a week.

Nothing beats getting an immediate reaction, and that's why Madeleine loves to go after her two housemates, Moe and Alice. They both have their favorite things. Moe, for example, is absolutely content when he has a bowl of potato chips and a glass of cranberry juice on the table in front of him. Madeleine knows this, and left unsupervised she will dispatch both things to the floor. If she's in a particularly bad mood, she'll actually dump Moe's juice on his lap, sending him into paroxysms of grief.



This was my first gig in social services, and the agency didn't rush to hire me. They wanted someone with more direct-care experience, and I had to drop a name to get in the door. Not that I didn't have the basic qualifications for the job. I am patient, sensitive and responsible. Although I'd never been employed in a formal setting, I had some experience working with disability. Not to mention my personal background: As someone who stutters, I know what it's like to fall short of society's expectations. I must have communicated these things in my interview because they hired me within the week.

Social service is notorious for low wages but renowned for extremely flexible hours. With an overnight shift I could log 24 hours in three days, leaving me plenty of time to write. The house was a short block and a half from my apartment, so I could walk to work instead of wasting time and money in my car. The schedule balanced well with my other job, teaching a dance class that meets twice each week. All the parts of my life fit together rather nicely (for a change) so I didn't mind if the walls of my financial space were a little narrow.

The house manager described Madeleine as "someone who required a lot of supervision." She warned me about Madeleine's furniture-tipping and her propensity for annoying Moe and Alice. It occurred to me that I might be in a little over my head, but I feel that way at the beginning of any new job. I decided to get into the situation before making any decisions about what I couldn't handle.



Crash!
"No! No! No! No! No! No!"

That was Alice reacting to Madeleine tipping over her walker, which made a loud, metallic clatter when it met the floor.

"Hey Alice," I said after leading Madeleine away from the scene of the crime by her wrist, "can I put your walker in your room?"

"No!" She was adamant. And loud.

"But Alice, if I put your walker in your room, Madeleine can't knock it over."

"No." Slightly more subdued this time.

"It will be safe in there, Alice. I'll get it out for you when you need it."

"No."

This wasn't working. I changed tactics.

"OK, Alice. If you want to keep it out here, you need to make a promise."

She looked at me.

"You have to promise not to yell and scream when Madeleine tips over your walker."

"Yeah," she said, and I felt a certain relief rise in my chest.

"That's okay with you, Alice? You can make that promise?"

"Yeah."

"Okay. Good."

I walked back into the kitchen where dinner was simmering on the stove.

Crash!

"No! No! No! No! No! No!"



There is no policy for working with Madeleine. No one has established a set of standards for directing Madeleine's energy on a more productive track. I was warned about Madeleine, but I wasn't given any set of rules for encouraging her growth or deterring her antisocial behavior. As a result, there are two options for dealing with her.

Some people opt for the laissez-faire approach. The idea is that as long as Madeleine doesn't physically harm herself or anyone else, give her free rein. But the odds that Madeleine might hurt herself are fairly good. When her mood gets really bad, she rolls around on the floor while she whines. Every now and then she'll stop and reach for the leg of a chair to pull over, unconcerned that she's lying right at ground zero. I don't think this is an attempt at self-

is. With Moe confined to a wheelchair and Alice limited to using a walker, Madeleine is the most ambulatory member of the household. If the staff allows her free rein, Alice and Moe can't enjoy a moment's peace. We sacrifice their basic pleasures for our own daily sanity.

I eventually chose this route, but not before nearly blowing a fuse with the other, which is active engagement.



"You're going to let her get away with that?"

This was Frank, the person who worked upstairs, where three other residents shared a home. He often came downstairs to do the laundry and gab about books and music, and now he found me in the kitchen with Madeleine rolling around at my feet, pots and pans strewn about on the floor.

"Yeah, sure. What else can I do, really?"

"Make her clean it up," said Frank, "She can do it."

"She can?" I was incredulous. I had heard many stories about the fragility of Madeleine's muscles and brittleness of her bones.

"You bet," Frank leaned over the counter, signing and speaking at the same time. "Hey Madeleine," Frank yelled, "Clean up your mess."

Madeleine stopped rolling.

"Madeleine," Frank continued, "pick it up."

To my utter amazement, Madeleine reached over and picked up a cookie sheet. She held it up to Frank.

"Nope! You put it away. You clean up your mess."

Madeleine whined once and offered the sheet to Frank again.

"Uh-uh. Put it away."

He locked eyes with her. No one moved. For a moment, Madeleine appeared to be concentrating. What was she doing? Weighing her options?

I thought to myself that if some mysterious force in the universe offered me the opportunity to hear one person's thoughts for just a few minutes, I would choose Madeleine. Without thinking twice, I would choose her.

mutilation, but it's almost as scary. Once I caught a falling wooden chair split seconds before it opened Madeleine's skull. Outside of these life-saving interventions, the laissez-faire path demands complete hands-off. If Alice's walker ends up on the floor, staff sets it back up and lets Madeleine go on her way. Any chairs that end up sideways stay that way until someone wants to use them.

This sounds terribly unfair to Madeleine's housemates and, frankly, it



Considering alternatives? Scheming some particularly obnoxious way out of this little predicament? Silence reigned for a good two minutes, at least. It was finally broken by the clatter of the cookie sheet sliding into the cabinet.

"A few rounds of that and she'll think twice before making a mess," said Frank. "If you've got the patience for it."

Frank once declared that he'd never work with Madeleine, even if the agency quadrupled his pay and offered him vacations on demand. Considering this, I probably should have thought twice before taking his advice. I was so completely astounded by the sight of Madeleine cleaning up a mess of her own making that I didn't stop to think about it. The next toppled dining room chair gave me the opportunity to see if Frank's philosophy could be applied to furniture.

"Hey, Madeleine! Pick it up!"

Shaking her head vigorously from side to side. I was unmoved.

Frank once declared that he'd never work with Madeleine, even if the agency quadrupled his pay and offered him vacations on demand.

"Pick it up, Madeleine. Clean up your mess." Madeleine made to lean down, but then straightened up and started to walk away. I felt an instant flush of anger and grabbed her wrist.

"No, Madeleine. Pick up the chair." She leaned over again, but this time she grabbed on to the wooden seat and began pulling. It rose an inch off the floor before she dropped it, groaning.

"Try again, Madeleine." It was the same thing. Madeleine could lift the chair an inch or two, but no more. Her exasperated grunts made it sound like too much work. I let her off the hook.

"Okay Madeleine, that's enough."

Later that evening I emerged from Alice's room after helping her to bed, and to my infuriated surprise, Madeleine was setting the old chair upright.

It was a little awkward for her. She is, after all, shorter than the chair. She had to lift the chair from the top and walk forward with it, and there was a moment when she and the chair seemed balanced like a bizarre, surreal sculpture. There wasn't any of the heaving and groaning from the earlier episode, and Madeleine had the chair on all four legs in about the same amount of time that it took for her to knock it over. She walked around to the front, climbed up into the seat and crossed her legs. In a few seconds she was gently rocking from side to side.



I chose the route of active engagement, but not from any desire to encourage Madeleine's growth or alter her behavior for the better. It was completely selfish. Watching Madeleine trash the house and needle her

housemates, with no accountability for the consequences, got me totally peeved. Now that I had uncovered her ruse, I felt no sympathy for her "struggle" as she avoided picking up the chairs. In fact, I had begun to feel pleasure at her obvious rage when I knelt down and signed the horrible, dreaded words: "Pick it up, Madeleine."

Seeing her adroitly maneuver a chair back onto its legs altered my perception of Madeleine's abilities, and now I felt that she was playing us all for fools. Instead of presupposing that her physical condition prevented her from accomplishing some task, I began assuming exactly the opposite. Most of the time I learned that she was completely up to the work at hand, though she despised being found out.

My new approach followed through to bath time. Since the people who trained me led me to believe she lacked the manual dexterity required to remove her clothing, I always did it for her. One night I sat her down on the toilet seat cover, turned on the water for the tub and turned to look at her. She was holding out one foot for me to untie her shoe and take it off.

"Nope. You do it, Madeleine."

The usual barrage of whining and head-shaking ensued, but I held my ground, locking eyes with her the way Frank did in the kitchen.

"You take off the shoe, Madeleine. I know you can."

A solid five minutes later, both shoes were off, and she was whining about having to take off her own shirt. In the end the whole process took about 20 minutes or so. Without all the fuss, she could have undressed in as much time as it takes anyone else. This all took a lot of patience, but it also gave me the opportunity to get off my feet for a few minutes. After a couple of weeks, I began bringing the house's little transistor radio into the bathroom so I could listen to A Prairie Home Companion while Madeleine wailed and shook on the toilet seat.



The training for this job included a two-day class in the Mandt System, which, as any initiate can happily recite, teaches you to manage yourself as well as others. It recognizes an obvious but frequently overlooked fact: a situation that is spiraling out of control is most likely spiraling you out of control as well. Any assessment of this situation must include an examination of your own physical and emotional state, otherwise you will unwittingly contribute to the problem. David Mandt uses the term "escalation."

During this training, I imagined large, violent people on (or off) lots of medication wielding sharp household objects. The instructor proudly recounted numerous tales of encounters with huge, angry men to whom he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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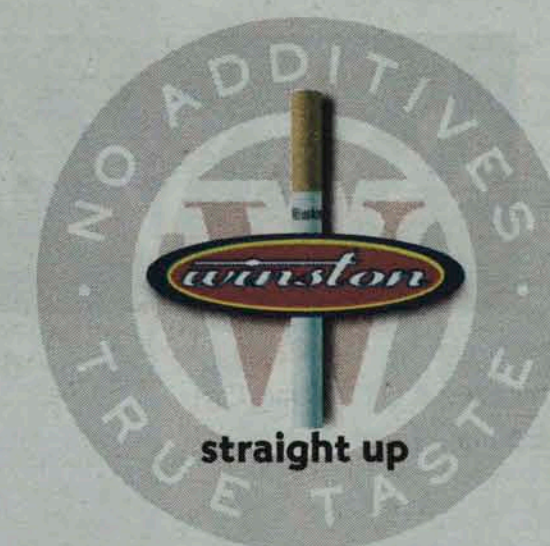
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Pick it up, Madeleine!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"Alone" was most of the problem. I was often the only staff person in the house, and I frequently worked 10-hour stretches by myself without breaks. There was little support on hand and certainly no opportunity to take a 15-minute walk around the block to calm down.

I no longer work for that agency and I now have the benefit of hindsight. I'm clearly not the right person to be working with Madeleine. My buttons are far too available for pushing, and she managed to figure out how to hit at least half of them. At the same time, I wonder whose fuse is long enough to work alone, week after week, with someone as difficult as Madeleine.

Madeleine's breathing was finally slowing down, and so was mine. Her eyes returned to their original size, and I could feel a headache starting in the tight, sore muscles at the base of my neck.

She looked very, very tiny in the easy chair. This recliner was Alice's throne. Alice is a large woman and she usually fills the chair with her sizable girth. Madeleine seemed awkward in the seat, with so much of it looming up around her odd, angular body. Her hair was still wet from her bath, so the disconcerting angles of her skull were pronounced and strange to see. As my pulse began to come down, I thought to myself that if some mysterious force in the universe offered me the opportunity to hear one person's thoughts for just a few minutes, I would choose Madeleine. Without thinking twice, I would choose her.

Madeleine stayed in that big, blue chair for the rest of the evening. I cleaned up the kitchen, vacuumed the carpets, and cleaned the bathroom. Her eyes followed me from room to room as I did the nightly chores. Eventually I fished the radio out of the toilet. Water drained out of the cassette player and the battery case. A quiet, formless static emitted from the tiny speaker when I turned it on. I put it back on the mantel, hoping that it would still work in the morning after it dried out.

Jesse Loesberg is a freelance writer who lives in Portland.

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comment

No excuse

The religious right has launched a campaign of misinformation about the law granting civil rights to gay men and lesbians. In brochures and newspaper columns, the anti-gay forces have trotted out a series of allegations against the measure. That these claims are patently false is of surprisingly little concern to a group that claims its opposition to the law is based on moral considerations.



According to opponent's propaganda, Maine will open itself to all manner of unexpected consequences if it takes the simple step of banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, credit and public accommodation. The anti-gay groups claim this measure will force companies to pay benefits to the domestic partners of homosexual employees. That's simply untrue. The state has no law requiring companies to pay benefits to domestic partners of any sexual orientation.

The homophobes are claiming the law would compel religious organizations to hire gay men and lesbians. Again, not true. The legislation specifically exempts churches and affiliated organizations, and the measure is clear on exactly what religious groups need not obey the law.

The religious right is asserting that public schools will be forced to teach something called "the homosexual lifestyle." Wrong. School

curricula remain under the control of local school committees, which can decide how, when and if any sort of lifestyle is taught.

Finally, opponents of civil rights contend this election is about defending family values. But they make no case that anything in this law threatens families in any way. The only conceivable "family value" that could come under attack if this measure is approved by voters on Feb. 10 is the one that claims it's appropriate to use the family as a front for hate.

These feeble arguments are almost certainly an attempt to confuse the public, in hopes that confusion will lead to apathy. The religious right, which claims to believe in democracy, is convinced that the fewer folks who vote, the better off their "people's veto" of the gay rights law will fare.

This could be one of those rare occasions when they're right. The key to victory in this referendum might well be the degree of voter turnout. If each of the approximately 70,000 people who'll read this newspaper between now and election day made a commitment to go to the polls and vote "No," the opposition would be hard pressed to match that effort. If each CBW reader asked just one friend, relative or acquaintance to accompany them, the result would be an overwhelming affirmation of Maine's tradition of tolerance.

On Feb. 10, a "No" vote is the most positive statement you can make.

THE EDITORS

LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com.

Back to the back alley?

I am a 28-year-old woman who has always had the option, should I choose to utilize it, to end an unwanted pregnancy safely, quickly and without a financially undue burden. Since I consider access to abortion and a full line of reproductive choices absolutely essential to the equality of women, I should feel very lucky to have grown up in a political climate which has been "tolerant" of abortion. But I don't. Instead, I am afraid that we are sliding back down that slippery slope our mothers fought so hard to scale.

Attention all "pro-choice," "progressive," "left-leaning," "feminist" and "pseudo-feminist" women of childbearing age: regardless of your technical right to choose to have an abortion, pretty soon you may not be able to. The Jan. 18, 1998 *New York Times Magazine* details, in worrisome specifics, the current trend in medical schools in this country. If you're a medical student who wants to learn to perform abortions, you'll have to learn it on your own time. Most medical schools do not teach the procedure anymore, and those that do are picketed and harassed by anti-choice fanatics. The new students who do opt to learn the procedure are

looked down upon and thought to be of second-rate skill. Translation: in a few years, you may not be able to find a clinic or doctor's office to do your abortion for you. The majority of physicians in this country who perform abortions are the old-school, first-wave-of-feminism breed of doctors — the ones who saw firsthand the butchery of back-alley abortions. These same doctors are also in their 60s and 70s, mostly past the normal retirement age. So never mind the fact that at most clinics these days, if you want to get an abortion, you'll have to wade through a gaggle of right-wing religious zealots who would sooner plow you over than let you inside the buildings, shouting at you not to murder the innocent little being inside you. In a few years, if you make it past the protesters, there may not be a trained doctor inside to help you with your future. Clinic providers have been harassed, stalked, attacked and, in a few cases, murdered in recent years. Bomb threats are a semi-regular occurrence in many clinics around the country. The killings in two clinics in Boston a few years ago are just the tip of the iceberg.

I personally don't have anything against women who choose not to have abortions, whatever their reasons. In fact, I wholeheartedly support their right to choose to bring their pregnancy to term because I would never assume to know what the right choice for someone else might be. I do, however, have a BIG problem with women (never mind those pesky, mostly male legislators, Operation Rescue and the Promise Keepers — "sensitive guys") who think they can project their version of morality into my uterus. Listen up: women are going to keep on having abortions, whether there are trained medical professionals to do it for them or

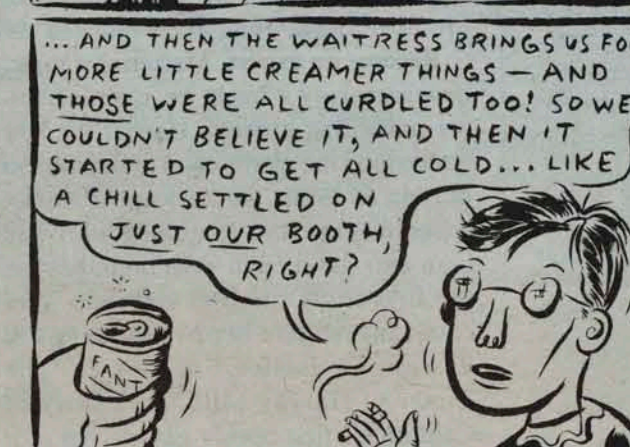
whether they have to venture back into the back alley to get them. Until there is a perfect form of birth control out there in the world (and for all I know, there probably is, locked up in some vault in Washington, D.C. with that UFO from Roswell), the right to have an abortion is an absolute necessity for the equality of women. And we have a responsibility to fight for the continued safety and integrity of the procedure. The religious right will keep trying to sidetrack us with related issues, like minors' access, late term abortions, etc., but that's just because they know that the majority of people in this country support the fundamental right to choose. Complacent ideological agreement with the continued legalization of abortion, however, does not always translate into activism. I'm sick of the progressives in this country who have tired of the issue dragging on and on, or those who think it's too messy. The right to choose is being eroded every single day while we sit around and think, "I did my part by attending that pro-choice march in D.C. back in '92." Wake up and protect your future and that of your daughters. Use your vote to have a voice. Volunteer your time at Planned Parenthood or other pro-choice organizations. Become a clinic escort. Donate money. Write letters. Learn all of the issues and arguments surrounding abortions and decide where you stand on every single one. Educate your daughters. Outwit the other side. Take actions before it's too late. We're almost there already.

Jennifer Judd

Jennifer Judd
Cape Elizabeth

STORYLAND

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CBW

On the corner of Spring and Brackett streets, there's a small cement pillar on the sidewalk. It seems to have no function. What is it?

Maine Historic Preservation Commission director Earle Shettleworth tells us the pillar — made from granite, not cement — is a remnant from the days of equine-based transportation: It's a hitching post, of course, of course. A few more like it are scattered around town, some paired with a curbside granite slab that was used as a platform when mounting or dismounting a carriage.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.

LETTERS

Disappointment all around

I know it's probably uncool to admit it, but I'm a closet fan of the CBW. The design is clean, Elizabeth Peavey rocks and Al Diamon is infuriating but often worth reading. I have to say, though, that I've not been a happy reader of late. I was sorely disappointed by Al Diamon's decision several weeks back ("Politics and other mistakes," 12.25.97) to run a comment made online by a member of Maine Gaynet without her permission. There were certainly plenty of us who would have been willing to speak on the record about problems of misreporting at the *Free Press*. To make matters worse, Diamon publicly identified the author of the internal comment not only by name but by place of employment — and this in the final weeks of a campaign designed to deprive lesbians and gays of our civil rights on the job. Clearly, even our heterosexual allies sometimes don't appreciate the risks we run, the harassment we face. It's lucky that the employee Diamon identifies works for one of the few companies in Maine with an explicit anti-discrimination policy protecting gay people. If the referendum on Feb. 10 succeeds, most gay Mainers won't be so lucky. This is why I share the deep dismay expressed by that Gaynet writer about the *Free Press'* misrepresentation of the upcoming elections. I expect both accuracy and outstanding reporting, not only from the CBW but also from the University of Southern Maine student paper. The staff of the *Free Press* is certainly capable of such excellence. I know because I have had the privilege of working with some of them in the classroom. Yes, we all make mistakes; so live and learn. And vote "no" on Feb. 10.

Wendy Chapkis

Wendy Chapkis
Portland

What about the teachers?

I was saddened to read the article on the discontent many students are feeling with the English as a Second Language program at Portland High School ("Language of Discontent," 1.15.98). What made me want to truly weep, however, was the biased reporting job on the situation. Did your staff talk with any students who were enjoying success due to their ESL experience? Last year's Portland High School class valedictorian might have been a good place to start. Was any ESL teacher interviewed or consulted for this piece?

I have taught ESL in work place and school settings and am currently working on my fifth state-required course to earn my ESL teaching endorsement. To teach ESL effectively is an art. My experience to date, at Portland High, has been one of awe at the flexibility, dedication and experience of its staff. These teachers, translators, and aides appear to provide a nurturing and safe environment for students for whom our culture must come as a confusing and overwhelming shock. To generalize is dangerous, so I will add that there is room for improvement — in education that is the name of the game.

Of course, the program is not without flaws. But the overwhelming numbers of incoming students coupled with their social and cultural needs is staggering. As a parent, volunteer and teacher I have mostly marvelled at the grace and care taken to accommodate these students.

I write this on Martin Luther King Day and cannot help wondering whether lawsuits from the NAACP against the Portland School Department are the

approach he would have endorsed. It seems a dream that Portland would be a site which welcomes people from any country regardless of the circumstances which brought them here. Most peoples' hearts and efforts are in the right place. So what about considering a less aggressive approach which might begin with dialog? Principal Allen has positively responded to some of Sam Carlo's concerns, which I am glad you reported. Let that be a beginning of progress instead of a line-in-the-sand break point over which the two factions take their sides. May I suggest you go back to Portland High and look at the folks in the trenches, the teachers and students in the ESL program, who are working incredibly hard.

Deborah D. Murray
Portland

Moose v. Medicaid

Your little blip on page eight was interesting ("News-o-rama," 1.8.98). Pine Tree Legal was successful in raising the rates to be paid by Medicaid to dentists. Past articles in your paper seem to connote that the success rate when pursuing legal action against the Medicaid program compares with the success rate of bagging a moose.

It would seem that dentists were unable to persuade the Medicaid program to increase the rates so they turned to Pine Tree Legal. Medicaid should acknowledge the 80 dentists that accept "the pitiful amount" and raise their payment threefold. The 520 dentists that refuse Medicaid children have made it known they do not need Medicaid reimbursement.

If Pine Tree Legal could find the time, here are some real issues: Elderly people faced with growing costs whether it be pharmacy bills, increased taxes, or other medical expenses (premiums, copays, deductibles). Schools that graduate children unprepared to enter the workforce or continue their education.

Licensed medical professionals should be required to make a minimum portion of their schedule Medicare and Medicaid clients. Distributing this population of clients among all professionals would prevent any vacation plans from being short changed.

Unfortunately the numbers show its better to go after the moose.

John Stevens
Hallowell

Canine logic

I just noticed that in recent years there have been:

A guy who blew away a woman in her own back yard.

Jail time: nada

A guy who blew away three unarmed people who he was afraid of.

Jail time: nada

A guy who shot a dog, thinking it was a deer

Jail time: 90 days (I think it was 90 days, maybe it was more).

Does this mean something? I guess it means scary guys and women are fair game, but not dogs.

Great.

Mike Connelly
Brunswick

Seeing spots: **Uncle Billy's is back.** The new Billy's is a direct descendant of Uncle Billy's Southside Barbeque, a South Portland institution, as famous for its funky decor and fabulous jukebox as for its award-winning ribs and sausages. "Yah," a German visitor once commented, staring at the walls covered with odd green and red spots and customers' drawings of pigs. "Dis is America."

Owner Jonathan St. Laurent closed up shop in 1995 because of a dispute with his landlord. St. Laurent was briefly associated with the now-defunct Uptown Billy's Barbeque and Bistro on Forest Avenue. He

now refers to that operation, which lacked the original's ambience, as "Uptight Billy's."

Nobody is likely to level that criticism at Uncle Billy's Barbeque, which opened quietly in a former mom-and-pop store at 69 Newbury St. during the last week in January. When we visited, the tiny eatery still had no sign and no license to serve alcohol (both should have arrived by the time you read this), but it did have some of its old atmosphere back. The spots were on the walls. St. Laurent was shouting outrageous crap from the kitchen. The new jukebox, which once graced a strip joint in Redbank, features everything from the Lemon Pipers to Nirvana. Some of the old artwork and bric-a-brac have survived. The bathrooms are, well, best to see for yourself.

As for the food, it was classic Billy — wood-smoked in battered black cookers that give the new place a lived-in look. We slathered on the sauce and helped christen the business with some spots of our own.

■ **Trouble brewing:** When it comes to seemingly out-dated, post-prohibition era liquor laws, the Maine Bureau of Liquor Enforcement doesn't fool around. Steve Harris knew he might be in violation of state laws when he launched **R.S. Harris' Honey Brown Ale**, brewed for him by Gritty McDuff's, and available at his bars, Rosie's and Ruski's. "The liquor commission had mentioned its concerns," said Harris, "but my point was if chains [like the Olive Garden] can have their name on wine, why can't I have my name on my beer?" According to bureau director Lynn Cayford, "If he wants to make his own beer, he can put his name on it and pay taxes, but he's not the brewer. We didn't cite him for anything. We just told him to stop." Cayford added that the Olive Garden was refused when it attempted to sell wine with its name on it. The law in question prohibits the liquor licensee — in this case Harris — from putting his name on a beer he didn't brew. Its aim is to protect distributors by keeping brewers out of the retail business.

Not one to cry in his beer, Harris has turned the debate into a "Rename My Beer" contest. Early entries include "Boothby Square Brew," "Shipfaced" and "Bureaucratic Brew." **CBW**

ed Ge

STOP TEASING — A JOURNEY TO MECA — CARNIVAL FEVER —
SWEET SOUNDS — NOT SO "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"



ILLUSTRATION/PATRICK CORRIGAN

Beating the season

Some modest suggestions for giving winter the old one-two

■ **ALLEN DAMMANN AND ZOË S. MILLER**

It's cold. It's gray. And once again, we're questioning what in God's name inspired our ancestors to settle this tundra known as Maine. (Religious fanaticism, of course.) The depressing effects of the state's long, dark winters are no joke. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) — that's depression brought on by lack of sunlight — affects 8 percent of Mainers. Another 17-20 percent experience related symptoms, such as weight gain, trouble waking up in the morning, sluggishness and cravings for sweets and pasta.

Those problems, said Portland psychiatrist Neil Price, are evolutionary left-

Learn to dance. If a rush of endorphins is what you seek, but the health club's not for you, then lessons in the gallant — yet social and athletic — art of ballroom dancing might be your salvation. Maplewood Dance Center offers ballroom dancing of every variety at its 383 Warren Ave. location, at 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday (\$7) and to big-band sounds on Saturday nights (\$10), with lessons at 7 p.m. Join the 30- to 90-year-old hoofers, who come from as far away as Bangor to dance in this smoke-free 200-seat hall. "They tell me it's the only floor better than the Taj Mahal," owner John Vance said, adding that street shoes are a no-no. For the Lindy Hop crowd, there's the Mainiac Swing Dance Society's party the first Friday of each month at Presumpscot Grange Hall, 1844 Forest Ave., with live local bands like King Memphis and the Sean Mencher Swing Combo.

Become an expert. Mastering a topic, however nerdy it might be, is an incredibly rewarding process. Harriet the Spy understood the merits of an obsession. So did Ida B. Wells, an African-American schoolteacher and journalist who was born into slavery and went on to publish the first study on mob violence. You could investigate her by watching "A Passion for Justice," or look at "The Times of Harvey Milk," the story of California's first openly gay elected official, who was assassinated in 1986, to study our nation's continuing fight for human rights. Both are among the many documentaries at the Portland Public Library. Pick a topic and dig in.

Plant a garden. "Color is the important thing," says Rose Marie Mayer, a designer and florist at D.S. Lillet on Free Street. In this time of gray, broken branches, Mayer suggests buying primula — bright yellow, red, pink or purple flowering plants — for instant gratification. If you want to watch something grow, snag some paper whites bulbs (\$1.75 a pop), nestle them in a quarter inch of water and spend the next six weeks observing them as they turn into fragrant, daffodil-like blooms. You can also try planting some basil, parsley or dill seeds in a pot, using a clipped-shut plastic bag to create a greenhouse effect. The peace lily, jade and Christmas cactus are all hardy, hard-to-kill plants. Just keep them moist, well-fertilized and away from the radiator. Maybe you'll have a Camus-like experience: "In the midst of winter," wrote the French existentialist, "I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."

Take part in art. "When you get involved in a painting, really involved ... it's the greatest meditation," says Keith Christy, artist, musician and owner of Art Mart on Congress Street, who claims

to be too busy to suffer from the winter doldrums. Amateurs looking to meditate this season can choose from a library of \$6-\$8 beginner's guides that take you step-by-step through egg tempera painting, Chinese painting, land and seascapes and a host of other palatable possibilities. For sculpting endeavors that don't require a chisel and hammer, Terra Firma sells wig heads for three bucks a pop. Take some magazine photos, snip out the eyes, lips and nose and glue them onto the appropriate spots. Fill in the blank spaces with bits of shredded photo-flesh, and you have a decapitated noggin so chillingly lifelike, you'll think of all sorts of other things to do to avoid going home.

Fill in the blank spaces with bits of shredded photo-flesh, and you have a decapitated noggin so chillingly lifelike, you'll think of all sorts of other things to do to avoid going home.

Become a street performer. A typical sight in European cities, street theater is not only a cost-effective way to get those 15 minutes of fame you've got coming to you, but it's also one of the rare activities that benefits from a long afternoon of drinking (though caution is advised

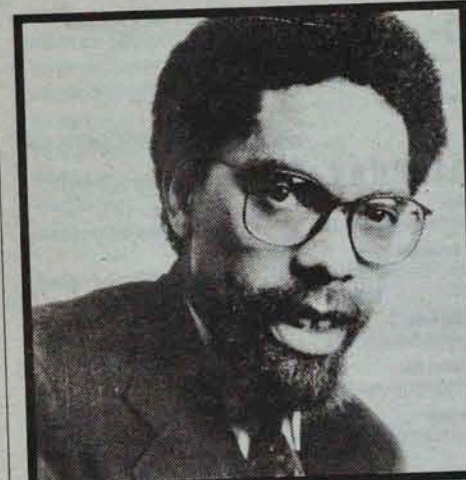
when choosing your pre-performance watering hole. Many establishments, such as the Nickelodeon, tolerate only thespians who are stewed on-screen). As for the performance itself, anything goes, from turning an invisible crank on your hip that appears to make you bend over to enacting the steamier bits of "Waiting for Godot." But whatever your selection, Oak Street Theatre's Michael Levine suggests it "works best when it's not presentational, but involves the audience." Which means you'll probably have to cover the cost of their drinks, too.

Document yourself. Rather than thumb through your photo albums again, animate your life with a video autobiography. Mount your camcorder, pop in a tape, zoom in on your mug and record. Special effects are easy, too. Using typing paper and markers, you can create your own witty title cards, such as "Trip to Arizona '87." When you've finished, pipe your stereo through your VCR and add a soundtrack — just like in the movies. If you don't have the patience to relive your life frame by frame, skip the photos and go straight to the source. Document your week, capturing all those prosaic and meaningless chores that, 10 years from now, you'll have forgotten constituted the bulk of your existence. For those without video capability, \$35 gets you a camera for the weekend from the Rental Zone at Union Station Plaza on St. John Street.

Good luck and as Dostoyevsky put it, "He who masters the gray everyday is a hero." **CBW**

preview

Race matters



of color seeking higher education and careers. If that effort succeeds, it may one day produce the needed role models for a more diverse state.

But information is just one part of achieving that goal. Dialogue is also necessary. Few Americans are more qualified to offer advice on achieving that communication than Cornel West, philosopher, author and professor of Afro-American studies and religion at Harvard. As part of President Clinton's National Conversation on Race, West has traveled around the nation, offering community talks on ways to "restore hope that we can build bridges, come together and accent the best in American Democracy." West delivers the ALANA dinner's keynote address.

■ **ZOË S. MILLER**

The ALANA jobs/college fair happens Feb. 6 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. The fair, featuring more than a dozen exhibitors, is free and begins at 3 p.m. Reception at 6 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., Portland and dinner at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Cost: \$30 (\$20 students/reduced rates available). To register and for more info, call 780-5960.

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NO COVER before 11pm - 9pm-1am

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226 Jazz Night

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clubs



Prime cut

"Gorgeous aggressive pop with a touch of trash." That's what the Durham, NH, trio Spirit Varnish call their music. It's a brave statement to make, but it's accurate. The music on Spirit Varnish's EP, "Fullness and Sweet," is gorgeous in the same vein as Lush — with two female singers who accentuate the sugary high femininity of their voices — especially on "Solid Floors." Spirit Varnish makes good on the aggressive end with strong guitars, and, as for the touch of trash, the title track and "Longtime" offer brief diversions into the realm of thrashing drums. They open for another gorgeous band, Boston's Mistle Thrush, Feb. 5 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St., Portland, at 10 pm. With Hosemobile. Tix: \$5 (18+). 773-2337.

thursday 5

Asylum
Retro '70s disco night (9 pm/no cover)

The Barking Squirrel
Call ahead (6:30 pm/no cover)

The Basement
Wild Oats (acoustic jam rock/9:30 pm/\$2)

The Big Easy
Call ahead (blues/9:30 pm)

The Bitter End
Shannon Tremble (9 pm/no cover)

Club 100
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/ladies' night)

The Comedy Connection
The 5th annual Portland's Funniest Professional Contest with Mike Donovan (8:30 pm/\$5)

Free Street Taverna
Mother Brother Feed (10 pm/\$2-\$3)

Grill 36
The Sean Mencher Swing Combo ('30s- and '40s-style swing/6-8:45 pm/no cover)

Heads U Win
Karaoke (8 pm-1 am)

The Moon
College Night with DJ Dale "Da Dredd" Dorsette (Top 40 hip-hop dance/8 pm-1 am/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Empty Heads (all rock/10 pm/no cover)

Players Pub & Nightclub
North Shore Comedy Productions (4.5 comedians per show)

Road's
Pam Baker & Blue Plate Special (blues, swing and R&B/8-11 pm)

The Rock
Open mic with Bub (9 pm/ladies' night/no cover)

Silver House Tavern
Ken Grimley and Friends (classic rock)

Sisters
Country line dancing (8 pm/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Mistle Thrush, Spirit Varnish and Hosemobile (all rock); Concert Karaoke with Greg Powers (9:30 pm/downstairs/no cover)

The Underground
DJ Bob Look's All Request Night ('70s, '80s and '90s dance hits)

Zootz
Lounge night (9 pm-1 am)

Friday 6

Asylum
guest DJ (dance until 1 am/\$3)

The Basement
Jonglers (8:30 pm/\$2)

The Big Easy
Call ahead (blues/9:30 pm/\$2)

The Bitter End
Call ahead (blues/9:30 pm/\$2)

Club 100
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Comedy Connection
Mike Donovan and Julie Dano (8:30 pm/\$8)

Free Street Taverna
Shutdown 66 (surf and hot jams/10 pm/\$2-\$3)

Gen's
The Workmen and Peep Show (rock/geekcore/9:30 pm/\$4)

Grill 36
Jazz (8:30 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Industry
College Night (DJ Derrick spins hip-hop and dance/18+ 10 pm-3 am/\$3, 21+/55, 18+)

Old Port Tavern
Empty Heads (all rock/10 pm/no cover)

Players Pub & Nightclub
DJ Mr. Earl (Top 40 hip-hop and dance)

Road's
The Seth Yacovone Blues Band (9 pm/\$5)

The Rock
Opie Cartel (rock/9 pm/no cover)

Sisters
Dancing (guest DJ/8 pm)

Somewhere
Joe Villani (piano/8 pm-1 am/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Broken Men (rock/9:30 pm/no cover)

The Underground
Andy's Weekend Party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Venillo's
Call ahead (Top 40/9 pm/no cover)

Zootz
Urban Dance with DJ Moshé and DJ D'Dream (hip-hop, trip-hop and acid jazz/9 pm-3 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all-ages after 1:15 am)

saturday 7

Asylum
DJ Moshé (dance until 2 am/\$3)

The Basement
Shutdown 66 (surf and hot jams/10 pm/\$2-\$3)

The Big Easy
Call ahead (blues/9:30 pm)

The Bitter End
The Sterlings (grunge/9 pm/\$1)

Brian Bori
Rakish Paddy (traditional Irish/9 pm)

Club 100
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Comedy Connection
Mike Donovan and Julie Dano (8:30 pm/\$8)

Free Street Taverna
Stringbuilder and Purple Ivy Shadow (all rock/10 pm/\$2-\$3)

Gen's
Dead Airborne Goats and Big Meat Hammer (9:30 pm/\$4)

Grill 36
Jazz (8:30 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Industry
DJ Mix spins Top 40, hip-hop and techno (18+/10 pm-3 am/\$3, 21+/55, 18+)

Metropolis
70s disco explosion ladies' night (DJ Thunder/8 pm-4 am/\$3 men/women get in free)

Old Port Tavern
Empty Heads (all rock/10 pm/no cover)

Players Pub & Nightclub
DJ Mr. Earl (Top 40 hip-hop and dance)

Road's
The Seth Yacovone Blues Band (9 pm/\$5)

The Rock
Opie Cartel (rock/9 pm/no cover)

Sisters
Dancing (guest DJ/8 pm)

Somewhere
Joe Villani (piano/8 pm-1 am/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Broken Men (rock/9:30 pm/no cover)

The Underground
Andy's Weekend Party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Venillo's
Call ahead (Top 40/9 pm/no cover)

Zootz
Urban Dance with DJ Moshé and DJ D'Dream (hip-hop, trip-hop and acid jazz/9 pm-3 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all-ages after 1:15 am)

sunday 8

The Forge
Ken Grimley and Friends (classic rock)

Brian Bori
An Irish Irish traditional/3:30 pm/no cover

The Comedy Connection
George Hamm's Comedy Showcase with 6 comics (\$6)

Free Street Taverna
Veronica Black Morphus Nipple (10 pm/no cover)

Metropolis
70s disco explosion ladies' night (DJ Thunder/8 pm-4 am/\$3 men/women get in free)

Old Port Tavern
Empty Heads (all rock/10 pm/no cover)

Players Pub & Nightclub
DJ Mr. Earl (Top 40 hip-hop and dance)

Road's
The Seth Yacovone Blues Band (9 pm/\$5)

The Rock
Opie Cartel (rock/9 pm/no cover)

The listings above are for live entertainment and dancing. Bars and clubs may be open on additional nights. Submissions for this section should be received the Friday prior to publication, including dates, times, cost and type of music. Send listings to Zoe S. Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail zsmiller@maine.rr.com.

the next BIG things

Life of Agony
Zootz, 2/13

Letters To Cleo
Asylum, 2/14

Rustic Overtones
State Theatre, 3/6

Primus, Blink 182 and The Alkaloids
State Theatre, 3/8

Everclear
Asylum, 3/11

Megadeth
Central Maine Civic Center, 3/20

Joan Baez
Merrill Auditorium, 3/21

Sarah McLachlan and Lisa Loeb
Civic Center, 4/1

Old Port Tavern
DJ Dancin' Don Corman (10 pm/no cover)

The Rock
Karaoke with Erich Krueger (9 pm/no cover)

Somewhere
Martine Daley (piano/8:30-1 am/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Jazz brunch (11 am-2:30 pm)

The Underground
Andy's Weekend Party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Zootz
Free Fall Sunday with DJ Moshé (hip-hop/9 pm-3 am/\$3 after 11 pm)

Gritty McDuff's
Nick Dargatzis and the Sideburns (rockabilly/8 pm-midnight/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Larry & Larry (9 pm-1 am/proceeds benefit Maine Women's Discrimination)

Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry & Larry (9 pm-1 am/proceeds benefit Maine Women's Discrimination)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Call ahead (9:30 pm/\$1)

Wednesday 11

Angie's
Ken Grimley and Friends (classic rock)

The Basement
Lazy Lightning (Dead covers/9:30 pm)

The Big Easy
Call ahead

Club 100
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/ladies' night)

Free Street Taverna
"Spirit of Jazz" Series with Jan van Vorst van Beest (10 pm/no cover)

Gritty McDuff's
Mark Miller (blues/8 pm-midnight/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with DJ Dancin' Don (10 pm/no cover)

The Pavilion
Ladies' night with DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance hits/\$3/ladies free)

Monday 9

The Big Easy
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog (9:30 pm)

The Forge
Open mic with Ken Grimley

Free Street Taverna
Open mic with Bert (10 pm/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
DJ Dancin' Don Corman (10 pm/no cover)

Zootz
Dominate the Species (gothic industrial dance and fetish night/9 pm-1 am/\$3; open mic in the Rec Room (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

Tuesday 10

The Big Easy
Open blues jam (9:30 pm)

Free Street Taverna
Kabbako (10 pm/no cover)

club directory

Angie's 121 Commercial St., Portland, 773-8593.

Asylum 121 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

The Barking Squirrel Deering Oaks, Portland, 774-5514.

The Basement 1 Exchange St., Portland, 828-1111.

The Big Easy 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-2207.

The Bitter End 446 Fore St., Portland, 874-1933.

Club 100 Route 100, Gray, 758-2374.

The Comedy Connection 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

The Forge 42 Wharf St., Portland, 773-9685.

Gen's 13 Brown St., Portland, 774-1114.

Grill 36 36 Market St., Portland, 772-7891.

Gritty McDuff's 395 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.

Heads U Win 27 Forest Ave., Portland, 774-1100.

The Industry 50 Wharf St., Portland, 879-0865.

Metropolis 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

The Moon 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Old Port Tavern 11 Moulton St., Portland, 773-9885.

O'Rourke's 185 Middle St., Portland, 773-6422.

Pete and Larry's Doubletree Hotel, 1230 Congress St., Portland, 774-5611.

Players Pub & Nightclub 1 Center St., Brunswick, 729-6260.

Road's 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

The Rock 365 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-6693.

Silver House Tavern 340 Fore St., Portland, 772-9885.

Sisters 45 Danforth St., Portland, 871-9169.

Somewhere 117 Spring St., Portland, 773-2337.

Stone Coast Brewing Company 14 York St., Portland, 775-6161.

Tipperary Pub Sheraton Tara Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, 775-6161.

Top of the East Radisson Hotel, 157 High St., Portland, 775-5411.

The Underground 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Venillo's 155 Riverside St., Portland, 775-6536.

Zootz 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

Unless otherwise noted, clubs require that patrons are 21 years or older.

Asylum
121 CENTER ST. 772-8274
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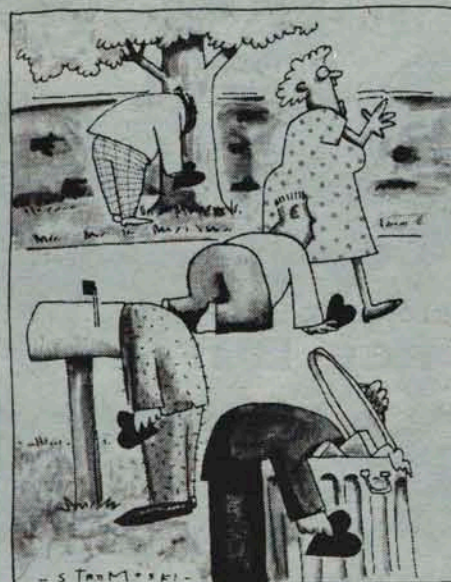
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calendar**FRIDAY 6****"POETICALL MUSICKE"**

"Academic snob" is only one of the graphic
epithets volleyed between dueling 16th-century
composers Thomas Morley and John Dowland. 400
years later, their ugly rivalry finally gets put to rest in the
USM faculty concert, "Poeticall Musicke." Tenor Bruce Fithian,
bass and viola da gamba player Carol Lewis and Renaissance
lute and archlute virtuoso Olav Chris Henriksen perform works
by these two tempestuous talents, as well as other rarely heard
pieces from the Italian baroque and Elizabethan England. At
Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$9
(\$7 seniors/\$5 students), 780-5555.



Going for
Baroque: Bruce
Fithian (center),
Olav Chris
Henriksen (left)
and Carol Lewis
create "Poeticall
Musicke," Feb 6.

"QUEEN OF HEARTS" BALL

Princess Di is the woman of the hour at the Peabody House's
"Queen of Hearts" Ball, a dance honoring her work for those
affected by HIV and AIDS. Hoofers can strut their stuff to the
melodies of the Manhattan Nine, snack on some hors
d'oeuvres and maybe even walk away with a door
prize. All that, and the tux doesn't even have to
visit the dry cleaners because formal attire is
optional. Proceeds from the event
benefit the Peabody House. At
the Pavilion, 188 Middle St.,
from 8 p.m.-midnight.
Cost: \$25. 774-6281.

•Seekers of higher knowledge can get answers and assistance at Maine Education Services'
"LIFELONG LEARNING FESTIVAL," an assemblage of more than 50 colleges, trade
programs and educational support organizations. At the Maine Mall, So. Portland, from
10 a.m.-7 p.m. 800-303-4376.

•Sax to the max at USM's "SAXOPHONE DAY," featuring performance workshops and a
concert. At Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham. Registration at 9:30 a.m.
Workshops from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Concert at 8 p.m. Cost: \$20 (\$12 students). Workshop only:
\$15 (\$10 students). Concert only: \$8 (\$5 students), 780-5555.

QUICK PICKS**FEB 7**

•Get all the fun of a carnival without the seedy workers. It's Figures of Speech Theatre's
and the Maine Summer Dramatic Institute's CARNIVAL, an evening of short theatrical
performances, auctions, music, food and dancing. At State Street Church Chapel Hall,
159 State St., at 7 p.m. Cost: \$10. 865-6355.

Submissions for the calendar must be
received in writing by the Thursday
two weeks prior to publication. Send
your calendar listings to Allen
Dammann, Casco Bay Weekly,
561 Congress St.,
Portland, ME 04101.

SATURDAY 7**"BROADWAY
SHOW-STOPPERS"**

Bone up on your stage-tunes with the help of
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Symphony Orchestra. "Broadway Show-Stoppers,"
featuring Maine's Downeaters Barbershop Chorus and New
York City Broadway singer Kristen Behrendt, is a crash
course in the biggest ditties of musical history, highlighting
selections from "Les Miserables," "Evita," "The Music Man"
and others. But don't bother to memorize the program. Crib
sheets are available at the door. At Merrill Auditorium, at
7 p.m. Also Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$21-\$47. 842-0800.

Thus Spoke Zora:
John Douglas
Thomas appears as
Sykes in "Spunk,"
beginning Feb 8.

"GIRLFRIENDS"

Feminine fealty is the theme of "Girlfriends," a concert by
Portland's all-women chorus, Women in Harmony.
Conducted by Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, the performance is
billed as a heartwarming collection of songs by Stephen
Foster and Gilbert and Sullivan celebrating women's lives
and their friendships. At Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High
St., at 8 p.m. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors and students). 774-4090.

SUNDAY 8**"SPUNK"**

Portland Stage Company offers song, dance
and a healthy helping of the blues in three short
plays portraying the happiness, humor and heartbreak
between men and women adapted from the works of
Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston. Two characters
- Blues Speak Woman and Guitar Man - usher the audience
through the lives of a washer-woman abused by her husband, a
husband cuckolded by his wife and two gigolos who try to work their
charms on a housemaid in the hopes of getting a free meal. At Portland Stage
Company, 25A Forest Ave., at 2 p.m. "Spunk" shows through March 8. Tix: \$23-\$29
(\$18-\$24 seniors, kids and students). 774-0465.

"THE GREAT CHILI AND CHOWDER CHALLENGE"

Soup du bivalve mollusk goes up against the devil's dish in "The Great Chili and Chowder
Challenge," a benefit for PROP's Foster Grandparent Program. More than just alliteration, it's
your chance to sample the culinary crème de la crème of 25 area restaurants, topped by slices
of Big Sky Bread and ice cream from Smiling Hill Farm. And once you've stuffed yourself
with stew - with the big band music of Northeast Swing in the background - you can vote
for a winner in each category. At Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., from 1-4 p.m.
Cost: \$10 (\$7 kids and seniors). 773-0202.

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For tickets or ticket information, please call the PortTix Box Office at (207) 842-0800. PortTix is open Monday through Saturday, from noon to
6:00 PM. Events are subject to change. For additional information call the Public Assembly Facilities Division, City of Portland, (207) 874-8200.

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SHORT cuts

DAN SHORT

American Music Club

The *Wall Street Journal* has declared Americana to be "about the most exciting thing that's happened to popular music in decades." Which mostly proves why you shouldn't read the *Wall Street Journal* to learn anything about music.

Americana is a radio format that encompasses neo-traditional country, roots rock, bluegrass and the singer-songwriter genre. While it hasn't exactly set the radio world afire, it boasts such a wealth of talent, from Steve Earle and Ricky Skaggs to the Old '97s and Whiskeytown, that it's quickly proving to be one of the richest sounding formats around.

One band that's already been declared a leading force in the new American movement is the Columbus, Ohio quartet Big Back Forty, who'll be playing in Portland in February. But after listening to the band's first

Big Back Forty: You can take the country out of the boys.

full-length CD, "Bested," one may feel the need for a shovel to get at the roots in this rock. The lead track, "Blood," and most of the other songs are just pure rock — big guitars, big vocals and big melodic hooks. The band puts their country and folk influences front and center on just a couple of tracks, and for the rest, the hint of Americana comes mostly from an occasional use of pedal steel and the twang in guitarist/songwriter Sean Beal's deep, sturdy voice.

But regardless of whether Big Back Forty is rootsy enough to be considered part of the movement, it's clear "Bested" is really good rock 'n' roll. Songs like "Blood," "Monte Carlo Girl," "Little Crucifier," "Move it Over" and the title track are propulsive and catchy, and the band has more authority in their musical attack than a thousand Counting Crows. You shouldn't believe all the hype about Big Back Forty being the next big thing in Americana, but you should definitely check them out.

One Americana-styled artist who's gotten good word-of-mouth and a fair amount of hype locally is the singer Jenny Jumpstart and her band of the same name. From all the buzz, I was expecting a mix of folk, bluegrass and country with a modern perspective. But when I caught their show at the Free Street Taverna Jan. 22, what I heard was, more or less, a bluegrass band. Though the members of Jenny Jumpstart certainly didn't look the part — with the stand-up bassist sporting dreadlocks and Jenny herself reminding me of a young Exene Cervenka — the music, played on fiddle, mandolin, acoustic guitars and the occasional banjo, wasn't all that different from what I'd expect to find at a bluegrass festival.

To the band's credit, their music was accessible and fun (where most bluegrass festivals seem insular and academic). The up-beat numbers crackled with energy. The ballads evoked the "high lonesome" sound for which bluegrass is famous, without making the style seem moribund. But on the most basic level, what I saw and heard that night were five musicians having fun playing bluegrass. Once I figured that out, there weren't any surprises left.

Don't get me wrong. Jenny Jumpstart was certainly entertaining, and I would encourage anyone who isn't downright hostile to bluegrass to see them. Unfortunately, I was expecting more than simply a fun way to spend an evening. If and when Jenny Jumpstart learns to do more with the music than just have a good time, they might actually start living up to all the Americana hype.

Big Back Forty, Feb. 15, at Raoul's Roadside
Attraction, 865 Forest Ave. 8 p.m. Tix: \$5.
Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers open.
773-6886. **Jenny Jumpstart, Feb. 14, at Free**
Street Taverna, 128 Free St., 10 p.m.

Sportland

J. BARRY MOTHES

A midwinter night's dream

Now that we're heading into one of the more psychologically and spiritually challenging stretches of the calendar — a period filled with grouchy apartment fever and quiet pining for unaffordable tropical vacations — it's time to throw out a sporting idea I've been nursing along for several years.

Why not stage a winter sports carnival? Right here in Portland. Maybe late January or early February. Something to get us outdoors together to celebrate the weather and activities that we all must like to justify our living here year-round.

The Portland Winter Carnival could be a major citywide happening — part sports event, part winter recreation showcase, part entertainment and part party, an excuse to draw people out to the parks and streets at a time of year when we probably need it more than we do on, say, New Year's Eve.

My admittedly rough vision for the Portland Winter Carnival calls for a three-day event, starting on a Friday night with outdoor skating, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and a bonfire in Deering Oaks. You could have special candle-in-the-bag lights or flaming torches around the perimeter of the skating pond for ambiance, piped-in music, strings of lights in the trees and spotlights on the ice. The Barking Squirrel, the park's pondside restaurant, could be open until 2 a.m. and other local food vendors could also be invited to set up (outdoor barbecue comes to mind).

Saturday and Sunday could feature a mix of winter recreation and competition for all age groups. The Riverside Golf Course would make a good site for a range of events: cross-country races, sled or toboggan races, snowshoe races, snowboarding races, a snow-sculpting competition, ski-jumping and freestyle exhibitions, snowball throwing, mountain bike races, dog sled races and a winter road-running race.

The Cumberland County Civic Center or Portland Ice Arena could be used for indoor public skating and speedskating races. A Portland Pirates hockey game could be teamed up with local college, high school and youth hockey games for a double, triple- or quadruple-header of the sport.

Saturday night would be a good time for a Winter Carnival Ball at a downtown hotel, with a spectrum of the city's best bands. Even the clubs, restaurants and bars could get into the spirit with their own special parties.

The action could resume on Sunday with sliding on the Eastern Prom and one of those mass plunges into the waters of Casco Bay from the East End Beach. You could follow that with a figure-skating competition at the Civic Center. A fireworks display at the Eastern Prom on Sunday evening would make a fitting finale.

In case you're snorting in disbelief, it's been done before. Back in the 1920s, the city hosted a winter sports festival that drew competitors and fans from all over northern New England and parts of Canada. The festivities included outdoor ice hockey at the Portland Country Club, skiing and tobogganing on the Eastern Prom, and, believe it or not, ski jumping on the Western Prom. Nor was Portland the only city in the state to have such an event in the carnival-happy 1920s. Bangor, Poland Spring and Augusta all had their own festivals, which, in the words of a *Portland Sunday Telegram* article from January 1921, "... have received wide advertising and consequently have brought great numbers of people to New England for the fun and enjoyment of skating, skiing, coasting, tobogganing and dancing."

Even Rumford (the municipality, not the band) got into the act. An introductory greeting in Rumford's 1927 carnival program carries a message that, 71 years later, couldn't sound more right when it comes to the purpose of a winter carnival: "... that every child from the youngest to the oldest learn to play in the great outdoors and to enjoy the fruits of health giving recreation in the crisp, clear air and sunshine of the Grand old State of Maine."

Of course, a lot of the success of this carnival would depend on the availability of plenty of snow and ice, which here on the coast is not always a certainty. But as far as I can remember, there hasn't been a late January or early February in the last 10 years with absolutely no white stuff. And I bet that once we decided to open ourselves up to the spirit of winter, we'd find a way to make it work, regardless of the weather.

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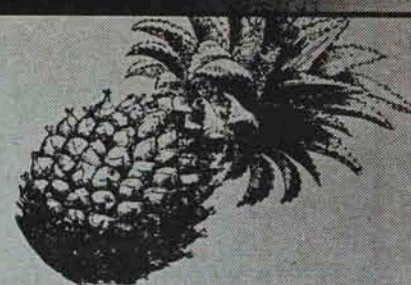
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STONE COAST BREWING COMPANY: Full-service, non-smoking restaurant with something for everyone—from a quick burger or sandwich to fresh seafood or chef created dishes. Lunch and dinner: 11:30a-10p. Sun-Thur (until 12a) Fri & Sat: Sunday Brunch Buffet with live jazz from 11a-2p. Plenty of free parking. 14 York St., Gorham's Corner, Portland, 773-8388.

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J'S OYSTER: Enjoy white linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere with a lively view overlooking Portland's working harbor. Savor our specialty seafood and pasta dishes and much, much more. MC/Visa/Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland, 772-4828.

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CHRISTINE'S DREAM: Offering the finest in breakfast and lunch fare prepared from the freshest of ingredients. Enjoy home made muffins and baked goods, home made soups, and much more. We welcome parking! Open every day but Tuesday 7am-2pm. Breakfast available all day, lunch served 11:30-2. 419 Congress St. Portland, 874-2499.

CAFE
BARBARA'S KITCHEN AND CAFE: Acclaimed So. Portland destination offering appetizers like asparagus wrapped with prosciutto and honey-mustard, savory entrees like Moroccan chicken with lemon, olives, saffron, and capers, seafood and vegetarian fare. Breakfast and lunch, Tue-Fri 7-9:30; Sat-Sun 8-2pm; Dinner Thu, Fri and Sat, 5p-10p. 388 Cottage Rd., 767-6313.

BINTLIFF'S AMERICAN CAFE: (Daily 7am-2pm) Experience signature items, custom omelettes, wraps, tortillas, and other American Fusion Cuisine. Selective dinner menu (5:30-9pm) will please the simplest of cravings to the most discriminating palates. Homemade desserts, full bar and extensive wine list in Greek Revival surroundings. 98 Portland St. (across from the post office), 774-0005.

BLACK TIE: Now in the heart of the Old Port! Stop by and experience our simple satisfying fare or our elaborate cuisine. Hearty soups, delicious sandwiches and always a tempting lunch special. Take home dinners available. Catering specialists on site. Hours: MF 7:30-3:00. Free delivery available in the Old Port area. 188 Middle St. (off Exchange behind the Pavilion) 761-6665.

BLUE MANGO CAFE: New owners have transformed the old Woodford's place into a four star lunch and dinner eatery with full bar. Featuring Jack Banana Fish and Ginger Lime Salmon. Fresh seafood, soups, breads, dressings, and desserts. Located by Holiday Inn Portland Restaurants. Credit Cards accepted. Open Tues-Sun, 11a-11p. 129 Spring St. 772-1374.

FRIENDSHIP CAFE: Enjoy breakfast and lunch in a friendly, casual atmosphere. For breakfast, over-stuffed omelets, fresh omelets, pancakes and more served all day. Two for one lunch special: daily at 11am. Lunch includes a wide variety of soups and sandwiches. Specialty coffee drinks. Open Mon-Sat, 7am-3pm; Sun 7:30am-3pm. 703 Congress St. on Portland, 871-5005.

THE MUSEUM CAFE (PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART): Tasty lunch items, desserts, and pastries served in a distinctive setting. Tues-Sat 11:30a-3p, Sun 12p-3p. Seven Congress Square. 775-6148.

SWEET ANNIE'S TEA SHOP: Stop in for lunch and have one of our hearty sandwiches on briolette bread or a tasty roll-up. If Afternoon Tea is more your style, pick from our menu of delectable baked goods and Portland's widest assortment of teas.

by the cup, ounce or pound. Open Tues-Fri 11:30-6:00, Sat 12:00-3:30, Sun 12:00-4:00. 642 Congress St., Portland, 773-3353.

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BECKY'S ON HOBSON'S WHARF: Scrumptious homemade desserts in an authentic style diner. Breakfast, lunch and now evening dinner Tues-Sat evenings until 9pm. Hours: Tues-Fri 4a-9p, Fri midnight-Sat 9p, Sat midnight-Sun 1p, Mon 4a-2p. Parking, 639 Commercial St., Portland, 773-1070.

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ASYLUM: Looking for fantastic food & excellent entertainment? Seek Asylum. Scrumptious soups, sexy salads & sophisticated sandwiches. Daily specials, fresh desserts & homemade bread. Happy Hour 4p-7p, Mon-Fri. Free Buffet Thurs-Fri. 121 Center St., Portland, ME, 772-4274.

THE BARKING SQUIRREL - CAFE IN THE PARK: Dearing Oaks Park, Portland's answer to "Tavern on the Green." Enjoy lunch, candlelit dinner or Sunday brunch next to our huge, crackling fireplace. Homemade, multi-ethnic and American cuisine starting at \$1.50. We'll serve you, Beer & Wine. Serving Lunch & Dinner Thu-Sat, Brunch Sat. 11am & Sun 11p. Parking, Visa & MC. 774-5514.

BRAY'S BREWPUB & EATERY: Serving lunch, dinner, pub-fare, and fresh Bray's ales brewed on the premises. Occupying a 120-year-old Victorian farmhouse, Bray's emanates a comfortable atmosphere of old-fashioned charm and simplicity. Open year round. 45 minutes from downtown Portland on Rt. 302 at Rt. 35 in Naples. 207-933-6806.

CAFE UPTA: Multi-ethnic vegetarian and fish specialties including applewood smoked salmon, pan-seared Casco Bay scallops, fresh ravioli and fish sausages. Hand-picked wine and beer selection, including ten wines by the glass. Geary's Hampshire and Pyramid Ales. Breakfast Wed-Sun, Dinner Wed-Sat. Visa and Mastercard accepted. 150 State St., Portland, 775-3380.

COTTON STREET CANTINA: Delicious meals including Grilled Tequila BBQ Chicken and Chimichurri Quesadilla. Dinners include Chili Shrimp Corn Cake, Fresh Fig and Walnut Goat Cheese Tart. Lunch Mon-Fri, 11:30a-2:30p; Dinner Mon-Thurs, 5p-9:30p; Fri-Sat, 5p-10:30p; Happy Hour Thu-Fri, 4p-6p. 10 Cotton St., Portland, behind Brian Boro's. 775-3222.

GEORGE'S: Delicious food, creatively presented, an accessible wine list, and a welcoming atmosphere. Come for cocktails, coffee, dessert, or dinner and you'll be back full bar. Dinner seven days/week, 5p-10p; Brunch Sat & Sun 9a-2p. Full late night menu: Thurs, Fri & Sat, MC/Visa/Amex, George's 21. Pleasant St., Portland, 774-5260.

GREAT LOST BEAR: Full bar—now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu: sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodfords area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking: 540 Forest Ave. Portland, 772-9300.

KATAMON: Spring & High Streets • 774-1740. Featuring Portland's most eclectic and best tasting menu. Great foods made with only the freshest of ingredients. Come in and enjoy the fun atmosphere, nationally published recipes, and award

winning desserts. Open Tues-Thurs 5p-9:30p, Fri & Sat 5p-10:30p.

PERFETTO: Funky flavors of the Mediterranean by Chef Scott Pelletier. Entrees include grilled meats and fish, local seafood, fresh pasta, and our famous shrimp ravioli (\$22.95). Approachable wine list and full bar. Lunch Mon-Fri, 11:30a-3p; Dinner starts at 5p seven days. Sunday Brunch 10a-3p. 28 Exchange St., Portland, 828-0001.

PORT BAKE HOUSE: Take-out fresh baked pastries and great lunches. Summer seating on the deck. Soups with pizzaz, creative deli sandwiches and healthy salads. All our decadent European cakes and tortes available Fri & Sat evenings by the slice. Enjoy them on our romantic deck. 205 Commercial St., Portland, 775-2217.

TABITHA JEANS: Maine's most cosmopolitan restaurant offering an eclectic menu including the freshest in seafood, grilled and vegetarian dishes, friendly service, and extensive wine list. Lunch Mon-Sat, 11:30a-3p; Dinner seven nights starting at 5. All major credit cards. Handicapped accessible. Smoke free. Member Park & Shop, 94 Free St., Portland, 780-8666.

VICTORY DELI & BAKE SHOP: Hearty breakfast, mouth watering baked-from-scratch breads and pastries, freshly prepared soups, chowders, salads, pasta and vegetarian specialties, delicious sandwiches. Beer & Wine. Monument Square, 299 Forest Ave. and One Portland Square. MC/Visa accepted. 772-7299, 772-9913, 772-8186.

ZEPHYR GRILL: brunch (brunch) is a late first meal of the day that takes the place of both breakfast and lunch. 2 feta and sprouts frittatas, multi-grain pan-cakes, wild mushroom and olive risotto, with hand-cut bacon, salmon steaks, and more. 9:30a-1:30p. \$3.50-47. 653 Congress Street, 207-828-4033.

ZYGOT BOOKWORKS & CAFE: Inviting and friendly service. Inspired and inventive food. Reasonable prices. Described as a place that "not only nourishes your body but actually changes your state of mind." Specializing in vegetarian soups, chilled noodle dishes & great sandwiches. Open Mon-Fri 8a-7p, Sat 10a-3p. Closed Sundays. 61 Pleasant St., Portland 775-4121.

VEGETARIAN / VEGAN
LOIS NATURAL DELI: Daily specials: rich flavorful soups made with organic veg. staples. Satisfying sandwiches like our broccoli redskin or a roll-up made with our

own organic hummus; eggrolls. Always a wheat free, fat free or dairy free choice from our daily baked muffins, scones, cranberry breads. Take home a dinner of roasted pepper lasagna. MF 9:30, Sat 6:30, Sun 11-5. 152 US Route 1, Scarborough, 885-0602.

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AURORA PROVISIONS: **** Fresh baked scones, Moroccan coffee, morning music...seasonally inspired soups, sandwiches, and Chef Cheryl's renowned gourmet dinners to go. Outstanding wine and beer selection, unique housewares, fresh produce and sundries. Tues-Sat 7:30a-7:30p, Sun 8a-6p, 64 Pine Street in Portland's West End, free parking, 871-9060, MC, V, AE.

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RACHEL'S WOOD GRILL: Inventive cuisine delicately seasoned with wood smoke and cooked the way God intended—over flame. Elegantly understated atmosphere. 25 wines by the glass. Lunch Tue-Fri 11:30a-2:30p, Dinner Tues-Thurs 5:30p-9p, Fri & Sat 5:30p-10p. MC, Visa. 90 Exchange St. (upper Exchange) Portland, 774-1192.

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BAR-B-QUE
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MEXICAN
GRANNY'S BURRITOS: 420 Fore St., Old Port, Portland, 761-0751. Preparing all of your Mexican favorites: Burritos, Quesadillas, Nachos & more. Functional food for functional folks. burritos until midnight!

MARGARITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANTS: 2 great locations in Portland! 242 St. John Street at the Union Station Plaza, 874-6444 and 11 Brown Street, opposite the Civic Center, 774-9386. These amigos know how to serve up huge, oversized meals and colossal-sized drinks! Happy Hour starts at 4p with free hot appetizers and great drink specials.

MESA VERDE: Flavorful, healthful Mexican dishes, NATURAL FOODS AND HEALTHY JUICE BAR. Happy Hour Mon-Fri, 3p-6p. Enjoy fresh juices, fruit shakes, smoothies, juice combinations, fresh fruit margaritas, rum smoothies and other frozen delights. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. Takeout available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theatre) 774-0689.

TORTILLA FLATS: A memorable experience in fine, affordable Mexican cuisine. Chili Happy Hour Mon-Thurs, 4-7, free chips, salsa and chili. Open Sun 12p-9p, Mon-Thurs 11:30a-close, Fri-Sat 11:30a-11p. Free parking. VISA, MC, AMEX, and Discover. 1871 Forest Ave., Portland, between Riverside and the Tumple. 737-8729.

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visual Arts

openings

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., Portland. An exhibition of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt opens Feb. 9. Shows through Feb. 20. Feb. 14: Deborah Eve Freedman shares some of the stories behind the quilt at 2 pm. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533. Also at Coffee By Design, Monument Sq., Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-6 pm, 761-2424.

Robert Clements Gallery 81 West Commercial St., Portland. Reception for "Hearts On Fire," the work of 39 artists inspired by St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 from 4-7 pm. Shows now through Feb. 28. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm, 775-2202.

Hole in the Wall Studios 1544 Route 302, Raymond. A group show of paintings and sculpture opens Feb. 5. Shows through April 1. Hours: Thurs-Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun 9:30 am-5 pm. 655-4952.

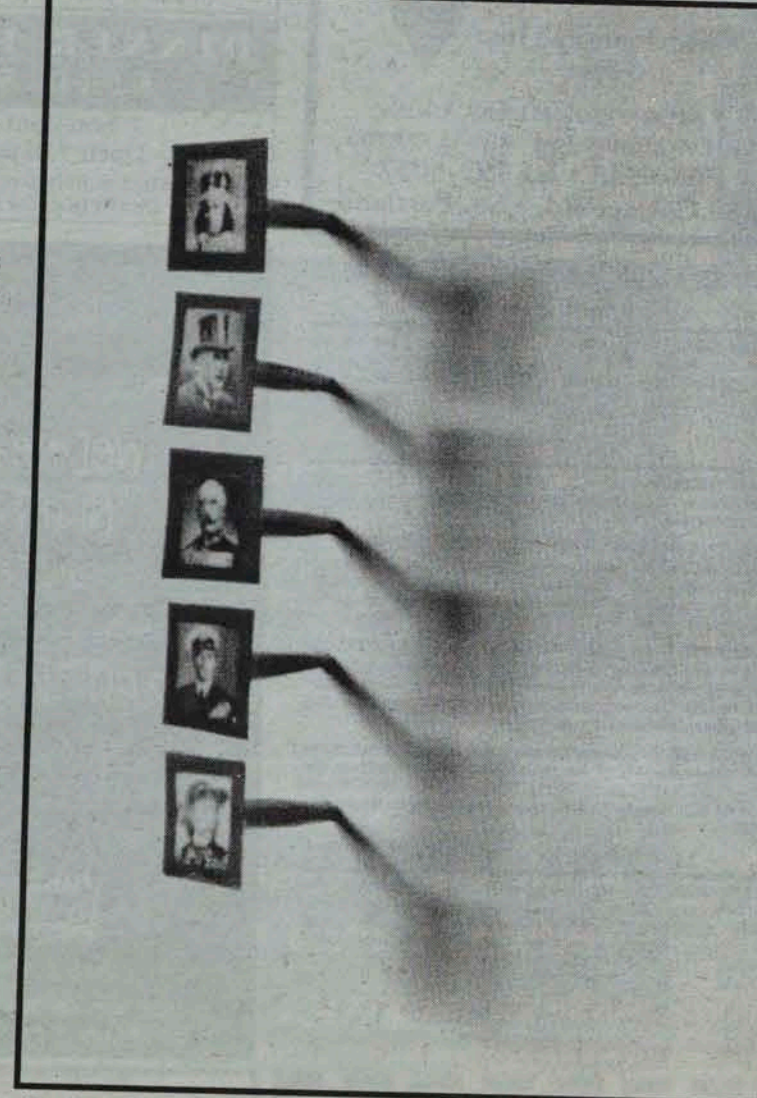
Keystone Theatre Cafe 504 Congress St., Portland. "Renaissance of Troubled Youth," an exhibition featuring masks, drawings, collages and sculpture created by young artists from the Maine Youth Center, opens Feb. 13. Shows through March 6. Hours concurrent with Keystone Theatre Cafe's movie times. For more info on the exhibition, call Verry Special Arts Maine at 761-3861.

Maine Photo Co-Op Gallery 100 Oak St., Portland. "Closing reception" for "Portals" and "Indigenous Spirit," two photography exhibitions of the Southwest by Richard Rothlisberger, Feb. 12 from 5-7 pm. Shows now through Feb. 17. Hours: Tues-Sun 10 am-10 pm, 774-1900.

"Scribal Variations" Love is the subject for a one-day exhibition featuring work by members of the Calligraphers of Maine. At USM's Gorham Campus Center, Room C, from 1:30-4 pm. 878-0946.

Thomas Moser Cabinetmakers Showroom 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. An exhibition of wildlife paintings by Pemquid artist Julie Babb opens Feb. 12. Shows through May 10. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, 774-3791.

now showing Bayview Gallery 75 Market St., Portland. Exhibition of works by



"Rank" (detail from "Major Figures"), Polaroid photos mounted on tacks by Sa Schloff, at "MECA Faculty Exhibition 1998."

gallery artists Holly Brooks, Bruce Turner, Helen St. Clair and others, shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, 773-3007.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., Portland. "Portland Landscapes and Cityscapes," oil paintings by Dennis Fournier, shows through Feb. 8. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-6 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533. Also at Coffee By Design, Monument Sq., Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-6 pm, 761-2424.

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art 148 High St., Portland. Opening reception for "Color Messages," featuring works by artists Paul Plante, Joan Murray and Mary Ruth Hedstrom, plus a sculpture by Dana Raymond, shows through Feb. 7. Hours: Tues-Sat, 11 am-5 pm, 780-0766.

Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth. "Remember the Maine," an exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia commemorating the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the battleship Maine, shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Tues and Thurs 9:30 am-8 pm, Wed, Fri and Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. **June Fitzpatrick Gallery**

112 High St., Portland. "Poemvessels," 15 clay vessels used as media for poetry, shows through Feb. 14. Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-5 pm. 772-1961.

Institute of Contemporary Art MECA Building, 522 Congress St., Portland. MECA Faculty Exhibition, the work of 29 artists, which includes a visual tour of France and a display on the relationship between words, sounds and objects, shows through Feb. 15. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-4 pm, 879-5742.

Maine History Gallery 489 Congress St., Portland. "Portland's Pride: The Observatory," showcasing watercolors of the Observatory's signal flags by founder Captain Lemuel Moody, a painting of the Observatory by Charles Codman, plus maps and various curios, shows through March 14. Hours: Wed-Sat, 12-5 pm. Tax: \$2 (\$1 kids under 12). 879-0427.

Margarita's Restaurant 242 St. John St., Portland. Original watercolors by Bonnie Brown. Ongoing. Hours: 4-11 pm daily. 874-6444.

MECA Student Gallery MECA Building, 522

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Hours: Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs-Fri 10 am-9 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students & seniors/\$1 youth). Admission is free 5-9 pm every Friday evening. 775-6148 or 1-800-639-4067.

* **"Marsden Hartley: American Modern,"** a retrospective of abstract works by the Lewiston native, shows through April 26.

* **"Making It Real,"** the recent work of 31 artists who explore the potential of photographic illusion, shows through March 22.

* **"From Monet to Matisse: The Origins of Modernism"** A complete overview of French art from early impressionism through Neo-Impressionism to Fauvism. Ongoing.

* **"A Portion of the Infinite"** Paintings by Rockwell Kent. Ongoing.

* **"The World in the Evening,"** featuring more than 25 recent landscapes in watercolors, pastels and acrylics by Jules Olitski, shows through April 2.

Portland Parks and Recreation 17 Arbor St., Portland. "Black and White Photography," the work of

local artists, shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, 874-8793.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq., Portland. "Maine's Soul Survivors: Legacy of the Holocaust," photographs of Holocaust survivors by Jack Montgomery, shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Mon, Wed and Thurs, 12-9 pm, Sat, 9 am-5 pm, 871-1700.

Salt Gallery Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies, 17 Pine St., Portland. "In Focus," a group show of recent photography and nonfiction writing by Salt documentarians. Shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Wed and Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm. 761-0660.

The Spring Point Museum at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd., So. Portland. "Portland Harbor, 1865-1900: Making a Living in Stormy Times," a permanent exhibit on the clipper ship Snow Squall. Hours: Fri-Sun noon-4 pm. Admission: \$2 (kids free). 799-6337.

USM Area Gallery Campus Center, Portland. "New Paintings," works in oil and gold and copper foil by Martha Oatway, shows through Feb. 20. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8 am-10 pm.

local artists, shows through Feb. 28. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, 874-8793.

USM Art Gallery Gorham campus. "Beyond the Mountains Lies Many Mountains," a collection of works by fiber artist Xenobia Bailey, painter Jean-Michel Basquiat and designer Alex Locadia, shows through March 21.

events & lectures

* **"Africa: What Maps Reveal About European Knowledge of the Continent"** Feb. 12. Michael B. Toth, curator of the exhibition, "Africa: A Continent Revealed" at USM's Osher Map Library, discusses the cartographic past of the second largest continent. At USM's Osher Map Library, fourth floor, 314 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7 pm. 780-4850.

February Photo Forum "98, The Maine Artists' Space/Danforth Gallery presents a photography lecture each Thurs in Feb from 7-9 pm. Feb 5: "Turn of the (20th) Century Photographers," Biographer Marius Peladeau speaks on Chansonetta Stanley Emmons and Abbie Sewall discusses the work of her great, great grandmother Emma D. Sewell. Feb 12 and 19: "Learning and Studying Photography in

Maine." The Salt Institute for Documentary Film Studies, Heartwood College and others present their philosophies and programming. Feb. 26: "Catching the Digital Wave." Various aspects of new digital technology are demonstrated and discussed. At the Danforth Gallery, 20-32 Danforth St., Portland. Cost: \$5 (\$3 members) per class, \$15 (\$10 members) for the series. 775-6245.

Gallery Talk Feb. 12. A discussion on the current historical exhibition "Portland's Pride: The Observatory." At the Maine History Gallery, 489 Congress St., Portland, at 4 pm. Tax: \$4 (\$3 kids under 12). 774-1822.

Frederick Lynch Feb. 12. The artist discusses his latest exhibition at ICON Contemporary Art, 19 Mason St., Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Free. 725-8157.

Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Feb. 14. Celebrate Valentine's Day and the power of love with "keeper of the quilt" Deborah Eve Freedman, who shares the stories behind some of the quilt's panels as well as her own stories of traveling with the quilt. At Coffee By Design, 620 Congress St., Portland, at 2 pm. 772-5533.

review

"MECA Faculty Exhibition 1998" runs through Feb. 15 at Evans Gallery, MECA Building, 522 Congress St., Portland. 879-5742, ext. 229. The latest show at the Maine College of Art is reflective of a particularly strong faculty, whose work avoids becoming oppressively academic because they retain the versatility of working artists. The largest flaw is the lackluster view of the show afforded passers-by on Congress Street. The glass balls and neon "With Hope" display, apparently held over from Christmas, will do little to lure you in, but if you ignore them and enter the building, the strength of the work should reel you in completely. The huge high-ceilinged gallery, a triumphant reminder of MECA's investment in the community and in its own future, is a powerful setting for a rich journey that features materials as varied as stoneware, raw silk, granite, India ink and a Walkman. The virtuosity of some of these pieces explains why MECA has earned a growing reputation among the nation's art schools.

Veteran painter Johnnie Ross's "Cedar Mesa" pieces are a highlight of the show. His subtle abstract studies of diffusion and opacity culminate in a large oil, exploring a subtle forest of line and layers that seems amazingly fresh. Abby Shahn's "Eyewitnesses" plunges the viewer into a realm of deep, primitive emotions through her spirited use of dark colors and fiery reds in a "quadruplych," that is also a 20th-century tribal odyssey. Master book artist David Wolfe's intriguing "Book" is an irresistible foray into a tiny enigmatic world. And Glenn Renell's Southwestern pastorals are filled with masterfully rendered brooding tension.

Two impressive large-scale pieces are Margo Halverson's "Map Series," a daunting demonstration of how complex graphic design both reflects and refines the ways in which we view our world, and Sa Schloff's "Major Figures," a piece composed of tiny Polaroid portraits mounted on tacks, which bring a whole new perspective to historical greatness. Mary M. Anderson's prints of 20 wax casts sited at a 13th-century monument in Scotland combine art and landscape, typifying the eclecticism that has contributed to MECA's cutting-edge reputation. A series of color photographs by John Eide form the visceral record of an accident, complete with blood and stitches. Their perversity creates a sense of narrative possibility that greatly expands this often clichéd art form.

There are many other striking pieces, too numerous to inventory here. These include the gorgeous ukuleles by luthier and musician Joel Eckhaus (known to contra dance fans as a member of the Pinetones), John Ventimiglia's sensual India inks, Marian Baker's exquisite stoneware and George LaRou's "combine.org," a re-interpretation of a recycled vending machine which is the height of wry kitsch.

Though there are a few weak spots, this adventurous exhibit contains surprises numerous enough to sustain a variety of tastes. Free brown bag lectures by the artists, at noontime on Tuesdays, throughout the exhibition, are an additional treat. ANNIE SEIKUNIA

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performance
center stage
The theatrics of theater are the inspiration behind the Portland Players' "Teasers and Tormentors," a new comic mystery by playwright-in-residence William Steele. Touted as a tale of sex, lies and audio tapes, "T and T," starring Kim Liggett and Patrick Dullea, is the story of an upwardly-mobile acting professor whose ambition earns him the resentment of two seasoned confreres. When his associates plot to bring about his downfall, he retaliates with a plan of his own, drawing all three pros into a tit-for-tat game of shady scheming. Feb 6-20 at the Portland Players, 420 Cottage Rd, So. Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 opening night). 799-7337.

dance
"Cinderella" Feb 7 and 8. The fairy tale of charmed pumpkins and princes comes to life. At the Centre of Movement School of Performing Arts, 19 State St. Gorham. Feb 7 at 7 pm, Feb 8 at 3 pm. Tix: \$4. Call 839-3267.
"Dance USM!" Feb 12 and 13. A showcase of original dances choreographed by the students, faculty and guest artists of USM. At Russell Hall, USM campus, Gorham. Feb 12 and 13 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors/\$4 students). 780-5151.
"Lionel at Large" Feb 6. Visiting member of the Bates College dance faculty, Lionel Popkin, dances in two pieces, the reality-warping "Are You Done Yet?" and the improvisationally chaotic "Lost Verses." At the Olin Arts Center, Bates College, Lewiston, at 7:30 pm. Free. 786-6330.
"Sacred Music Sacred Dance for World Healing" Feb 5. Nine monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery perform multi-phonetic singing and monastic dances. At Pickard Theater, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 8 pm. Tix: \$12.50. 725-3000.

music
"Africa!" Feb 14. Dancers and percussionists from Angola, Mali, Ghana, Senegal and the U.S. perform the drum and dance traditions of Africa. Presented by Portland Performing Arts' Big Sounds From All Over series. At the Portland High School Theater, 284 Cumberland Ave, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$14. 761-1545.
"L'Amour Galant" Feb 6 and 7. Ensemble Galant, boasting a countertenor, violinist, soprano, harpist, and cellist, honors St. Valentine's Day with a concert that includes works by Vivaldi and Weideman. At the Gibson Recital Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Also, Feb 7 at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 515 Woodford St, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$5. 721-3040.
"Broadway Show-Stoppers" Feb 7 and 8. "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Misérables" and "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" from "Evita" are two of the numbers performed by the Portland Symphony Orchestra in a concert with Broadway singer Kristen Behrendt. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland. Feb 7 at 7 pm, Feb 8 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$21-\$47. 842-0800.
"Geno Delofosse & French Rockin' Boogie" Feb 6. L/A Arts presents a zydeco concert with Louisiana's Geno Delofosse and his band. At Kirk Gym, Central Maine Technical College, Auburn, at 8 pm. Tix: \$12-\$16. A zydeco dance workshop precedes the concert at 7 p.m. Free for ticket holders. 782-7228 or 800-639-2929.
"Girlfriends" Feb 7. Portland's all-female chorus, Women in Harmony, celebrates the lives of women and their friendships. At Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors and students). 774-4090.
"Noonday Concert Series" Feb 5: The Portland Conservatory of Music Flute Choir, directed by Jean Rosenblum featuring works by Feld, Bizet and Hirose. Presented by the Portland Conservatory of Music. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St, Portland, from 12:15-12:45 pm. Free. 775-3356.
"Poetical Musick" Feb 6. USM faculty members Bruce Fithian, Olav Chris Henriksen and Carol Lewis perform Italian and

High School, 20 Gorham Rd, Scarborough, at 7 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$2 students). 780-5555.

theater

"The Apple Tree" Feb 5-8. The Deering Players stage a trio of one-act musicals: "Adam and Eve," "The Lady and the Tiger," and a contemporary telling of "Cinderella." At Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave, Portland. Feb 5, 6 and 7 at 8 pm. Feb 7 and 8 at 3 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$5 students). 775-7672.

"Burn This" Feb 13-March 7. A New York City dancer finds herself inexplicably attracted to a blue collar restaurant manager from New Jersey. Presented by Acom Productions, At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St, Portland. Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$14 (\$7 students). Every Thurs and Feb 13 is half-price. Feb 15 is pay-what-you-can night. Feb 14: "Valentine's Day Package" that includes tickets to the performance, a champagne split and two cookie bars. Cost: \$25 per couple. 775-5103.

"The Business of Murder" Feb 5-8. When a detective, a beautiful author and a mysterious stranger are brought together, it leads to a psychological maze of twists and turns. At the Public Theatre, 31 Maple St, Lewiston. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12.50 (\$10 seniors and students). 800-639-9575.

"Julius Caesar" Feb 12. The Aquila Theatre Company of London don their togas for Shakespeare's classic tale of power, betrayal and prophecies ignored. Presented by PCA Great Performances. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Pre-Curtain Talk at 6 pm. Tix: \$16-\$30. 842-0800. An abbreviated performance of "Julius Caesar" for students can be seen at 10 am. Tix: \$6 (\$4 students). Reservations are required. 773-3150.

"Criminal Hearts" Feb 5-8. Mad Horse Theatre Company presents a comedy where "The Odd Couple" meets "Mission: Impossible." Written by Jane Martin. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St, Portland. Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$18 (\$16 students and seniors). Sat night tix: \$20 (\$18 students and seniors). 775-5103.

"Foster Father" Feb 7. The Embassy Players stage Hank Beebe's musical recounting the story of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Proceeds benefit the construction of a new parish center. At the First Congregational Church of

New Gloucester, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd, New Gloucester. Tix: \$5. 926-3539.

"The Missile Man" Feb 6-15. South Portland High School presents the classic story of the singing con artist. At South Portland Auditorium, 637 Highland Ave, So. Portland. Feb 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 pm. Feb 8 and 15 at 2 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$4 seniors and students). 767-3266.

"No More Secrets" Feb 5-8. A musical about a young girl who is sexually abused by her babysitter — and her realization that some secrets must be told. Presented by Theater at Bates. At the Black Box Theater, Bates College, Lewiston. Feb 5 and 6 at 11 am, Feb 7 and 8 at 2 pm. Tix: \$2. 786-6161.

"Puppets and Poetry" Feb 13. Sound poet Myles Robert and puppeteer Vasilios Gletsos demonstrate their talents at Three Fish Gallery, 377 Cumberland Ave, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 774-6956.

"Restless Nights" Feb 12-March 1. The new Portland-based theater company Out of Cake enacts the stories of seven individuals whose lives radically depart from the ordinary. At the Agape Center, 657 Congress St, Portland. Thurs-Sun at 8 pm. Also Feb 22 at 2 pm. Tix: \$5. Free student tickets are available Thurs nights on a first-come, first-serve basis. 874-0285.

"Spunk" Feb 8-March 8. Three pre-WWII stories by author Zora Neale Hurston are told through blues, jazz, dance and puppets. At the Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave, Portland. Tues-Fri at 7:30 pm, Sat at 5 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Additional performances: Feb 14 at 9 pm, Feb 15 at 7:30 pm, Feb 25, 26 and March 4, 5 at 10 am. Tix: \$23-\$29 (\$18-\$24 seniors, kids and students). 774-0465.

"Teasers and Tormentors" Feb 6-24. An ambitious young acting professor is resented by two veteran members of the theater staff in this comic mystery by USM theater professor William Steele. At the Portland Players, 420 Cottage Rd, So. Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 opening night). 799-7337.

"Winter Cabaret" Feb 6 and 7. The Theater Project tickles Old Man Winter's funny bone with three one-act comedies. Al Miller directs "The Universal Language," Lee K. Paige directs "Words, Words, Words," and Wendy Poole directs "Marred Bliss." At the Theater Project, 14 School St, Brunswick. Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Tix: \$12. 729-8584.

"Youth Ensembles Joint Concert" Feb 15. A performance by the USM/Fleet Youth Ensemble and the Scarborough Youth Ensemble. At Scarborough

Learning for Life

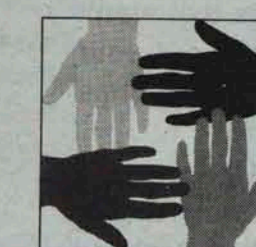
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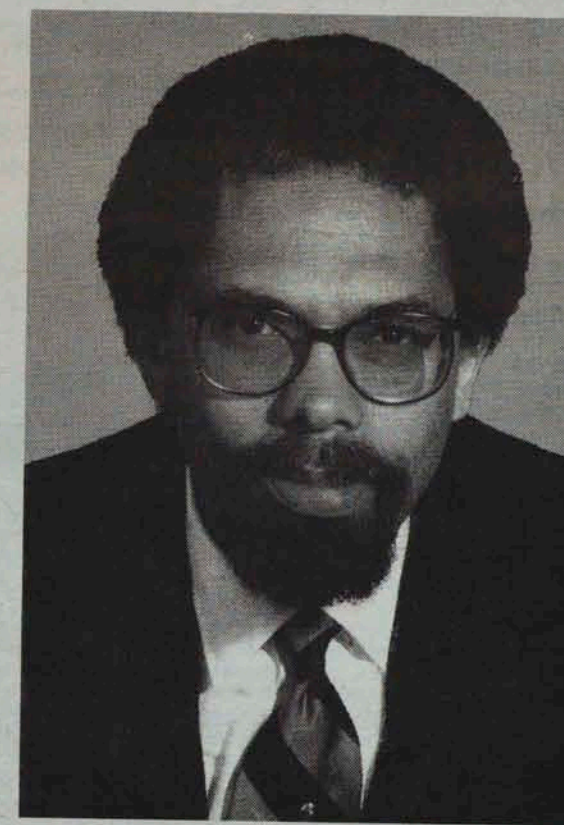
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- Best radio DJ
- Best bartender
- Local politician you trust most
- Local politician you trust least

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- Best Maine microbrew
- Best produce
- Best pizza
- Best burger
- Best fries
- Best Italian sandwich
- Best wraps
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- Best pasta
- Best lobster roll
- Best vegetarian food

BEST ENTERTAINMENT

- Best Old Port bar
- Best neighborhood bar
- Best local band
- Best local solo music artist
- Best local album of 1997
- Best live music venue
- Best radio station
- Best theatrical production
- Best place to play pool
- Best place to play darts

Best of Portland

Ah, Portland. How do we love thee? Let us count the ways.

It's time to vote for the Best of Portland, CBW's annual love fest, in which we celebrate all that is most wonderful about our town (and some of the things that aren't so wonderful, as well). So get out your writing utensils and fill out the categories you care about.

Confine your nominations to people and places within our coverage area (roughly Brunswick to Windham to Old Orchard Beach). If you wax poetic, we might use your comments when we write up the winners in our issue of March 12.

All entries must be in our hot little hands by 5 p.m. on Feb. 6. Vote early, but not often. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

- Best place to dance
- Best bookstore
- Best tape/CD store
- Best movie theater
- Best place for a free date
- Best sporting event
- Best ski area
- Best weirdness

BEST SERVICES

- Best ATM
- Best bicycle shop
- Best laundromat
- Best junk store
- Best tailor
- Best place for outdoor gear
- Best fishmonger
- Best jeweler
- Best place to get a haircut
- Best place for tattoos and piercings
- Best manicure

Casco Bay
Weekly

- Best massage therapist
- Best health club
- Best doctor
- Best corner store
- Best florist
- Most honest garage
- Best appliance repair
- Best use of taxpayers' money
- Worst abuse of taxpayers' money
- Best bureaucracy to deal with
- Worst bureaucracy to deal with
- Most effective citizen group
- Best gas station
- Best pottery shop
- Best day care
- Best local website

BEST PLACES

- Best building
- Ugliest building
- Worst intersection for pedestrians
- Best Portland neighborhood
- Best place for a weekend getaway
- Best beach
- Best park
- Best place to walk a dog
- Best company to work for
- Best temp agency to work for
- Best public bathrooms

READER'S CHOICE

Did you think of something we overlooked? Here's your chance to create your own categories and answers.

Name:

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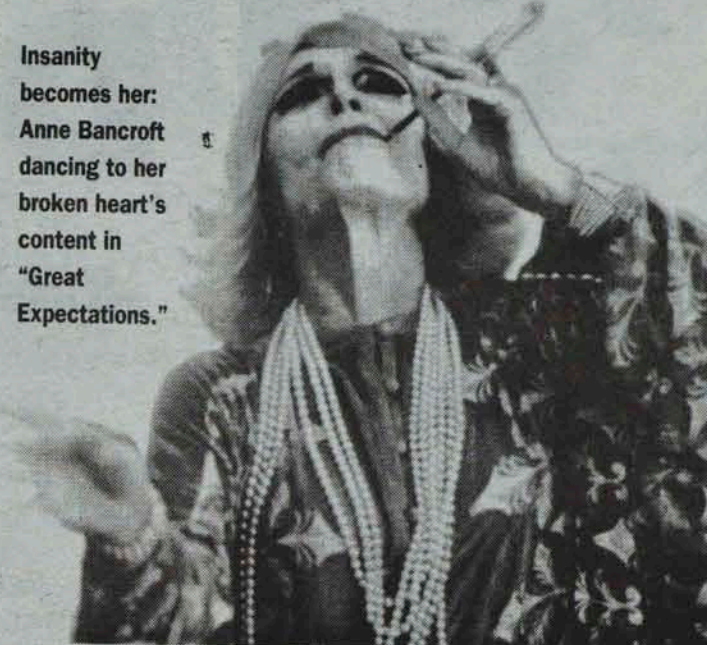
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movies

Review

"Great Expectations," directed by Alfonso Cuarón.
Rated R. At Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 Route 1,
Falmouth, 781-5616, and Maine Mall Cinema,
Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, 774-1022.



Insanity becomes her: Anne Bancroft dancing to her broken heart's content in "Great Expectations."

Alfonso Cuarón's "Great Expectations," a chockingly modern adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic, is a sadly underwhelming rendering of what could have been a great film. Instead, a great story, great cast and great set have been fed through the Hollywood-ization machine and spit out as a great disappointment.

At the heart of the movie's downfall are the great liberties the filmmakers take with the original story. No amount of cool modern styling can make up for the resulting lack of substance.

When we meet Finn Bell (Dickens' Pip, played by Jeremy James Kissner), the sweet 10-year-old orphan who's being raised by his sister Maggie and her husband Joe in a rundown house on the Gulf Coast of Florida, it's the early '80s and Joe's fishing business is on the rocks. This watery backdrop seems a right fit with the marshland of Pip's Dickensian youth, and the narration by Ethan Hawke (who plays the older Finn) helps to fill in some of the blanks. A burgeoning artist, Finn is doodling images of sea creatures in a tide pool when he's accosted by a stranger in an orange jumpsuit (Robert De Niro). Finn returns that evening to bring the escaped prisoner, Lustig (Dickens' Magwitch), food and bolt cutters. Finn later learns on TV that Lustig was locked up for killing a Mafia boss and has been recaptured.

This experience is fresh in his mind when he meets Ms. Dinsmoor (Dickens' Miss Havisham, played by Anne Bancroft) who pays him to spend Saturdays at her decaying mansion, "Paradiso Verduto," entertaining her beautiful 10-year-old niece Estella (Raquel Beaudene). On his first visit, the kooky, cosmetic-caked Dinsmoor twirls through her drawing room in a colorful gown, reveals her broken heart and tells Finn of the heartbreak he'll suffer at Estella's hands. Clearly, any movie must glaze over some aspects of the book on which it's based, but this is ridiculous.

The two grow up and Estella (now played by Gwyneth Paltrow) leaves to study abroad. The distressed Finn decides to give up art and gets a job working with Joe. He's nearly forgotten the twisted world of Ms. Dinsmoor and his aspirations as an artist when a New York City lawyer (representing an unnamed benefactor) appears to offer him a show in one of the big city's most cutting-edge galleries.

By the time Finn leaves the Gulf Coast for New York City, "Great Expectations" has left behind so many key parts of the Dickens' plot

that the film is becoming anorexic. With his secret benefactor's money, and Estella suddenly back in his life, Finn rises to the top of the New York art world. Too bad we never have the satisfaction of seeing Finn become a complete buffoon; his character-forming reunion with Lustig is reduced to one night of chatter.

In the end, what's most disturbing about this modernization of *Great Expectations* is how very un-Dickens it is. Gone are the preposterous ties between Miss Havisham and Magwitch, and with them, the link between Estella and Pip. Compeyson, Magwitch's arch-rival and Miss Havisham's unrequited love, is removed from the story completely. If the resulting movie weren't so lacking in emotional depth, these omissions might be OK, but in their absence we're left with an attractively packaged Hollywood romance. "Great Expectations" won't put you to sleep, but it also won't awaken your sense of fate and doom the way Dickens intended.

JOË S. MILLER

now playing

NEW THIS WEEK

ANTHEM It's what the rest of us nine-to-fivers can only dream about. Two women give up their jobs, borrow a car and travel across America, filming interviews with both rank-and-file John Does and celebrities such as Michael Stipe and Robert Redford, seeking to discover if the American dream lives on. *The Movies*.

BEAUMARCHAIS The playwright of "The Barber of Seville" and "The Marriage of Figaro" led a private life that rivaled the theatrics of his famous works. "Beaumarchais" is the story of how this critic of the aristocracy, banned as a playwright and imprisoned by the King, found his way into work as both a secret agent and a gun smuggler. By Edward Zwick, director of "La Cage aux Femmes." *The Movies*.

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 Dan Aykroyd steps back into the role of Elwood, taking John Goodman on board for this millennium sequel to the 1980 cult hit. *Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.*

THE HOUSE OF YES Thanksgiving Day reunites a possibly incestuous pair of fraternal twins, one who's been obsessed with Jackie O ever since the disappearance of their father on the day of JFK's assassination, the other engaged to a woman who piques the sexual interest of the twins' younger brother. Directed by Mark Waters. Starring Parker Posey, Freddie Prinze, Jr. and Toni Spelling. *The Movies*.

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS In this ballet of violence that imports Hong Kong's peerless action-star Chow Yun-Fat, a hitman (Yun-Fat) becomes the target of his crime bosses after refusing to polish off a child. With Mira Sorvino. *Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

THE SWEET HEREAFTER After a small town's school bus plunges into a lake, taking the lives of those aboard, an opportunistic lawyer appears to argue the case. Directed by Atom Egoyan. *Keystone Theatre Cafe.*

ALSO SHOWING

AMISTAD Steven Spielberg's painstakingly realistic account of the little-known revolt aboard the slave ship "La Amistad" in 1839 is a nearly flawless film that challenges its viewers to experience a gruesome and emotional chapter of our nation's history without softening any of the horror. It's the kind of film that any good history teacher should use as a resource in the classroom, and any person willing to face the truth about our nation's heritage will want to watch. "Amistad" will touch even those who purport not to care. Reviewed 1/8/98. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

THE BOXER A pugilist (Daniel Day-Lewis) does a little one-two for the IRA and lands himself in jail. Fourteen years later, he's a free man with a married girlfriend and a country still plagued by violent turmoil. *Keystone Theatre Cafe.*

JACKIE BROWN After a stewardess (Pam Grier) is caught smuggling dirty money into Mexico, she betrays her boss (Samuel L. Jackson) and hooks up with some dubious characters in a stab for the cash. *Keystone Theatre Cafe.*

DEEP RISING The horrors of "Alien" and shuffleboard are rolled into one in this claustrophobic sci-fi flick where passengers aboard a luxury liner become hors d'oeuvres for a scaly intruder. With Treat Williams. *Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

DESPERATE MEASURES Andy Garcia plays a cop whose son's urgently needed bone marrow transplant lies with the fate of an escaped psychotic genius (Michael Keaton). *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

THE FULL MONTY Following a local appearance by the Chippendale dancers, a group of six unemployed British steelworkers test their luck in the striptease business. They may not be good-looking, but a mixture of pathos and hilarity makes this film one of the most enjoyably intelligent feel-good movies in years. Reviewed 10/2/97. *Keystone Theatre Cafe, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE An author (Woody Allen) whose stories closely parallel his numerous affairs is beleaguered and browbeaten by his exes — and weary from his excess. With a typically Allen all-star cast. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

AS GOOD AS IT GETS Jack Nicholson stars as a bigoted, obsessive-compulsive novelist who finds himself charmed by an anxiety-ridden pooch and a down-to-earth waitress in this smart and witty romantic comedy. With Helen Hunt (isn't she a little young for Nicholson?) and Greg Kinnear. *Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

GOOD WILL HUNTING When one therapist after another gives up on the brilliant but troubled Will Hunting (Matt Damon), he's finally handed over to a shrink at the community college (Robin Williams). The doc may not have a Cambridge address, but he has what all the others didn't: patience. Reviewed 1/15/98. *Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

GREAT EXPECTATIONS A modernized version of Dickens' classic in which a moody and venomous old woman (Anne Bancroft), spurned years earlier by her lover, seeks revenge by manipulating a young painter (Ethan Hawke) into falling in love with a beautiful heartbreaker (Gwyneth Paltrow). Also with Robert De Niro. Reviewed this issue. *Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

HALF-BAKED Take "Dazed and Confused" and subtract the weight of coming of age, and you get a comedy about the misadventures of a group of half-witted stoners. With a cameo by Snoop Doggy Dogg. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

HARD RAIN When it rains, it pours. Christian Slater is an armored car driver whose day just keeps getting worse. Having foiled an attempted robbery of his treasure truck, he must somehow protect the loot and shake off the bad guys, all the while keeping his head above water during a flood of Biblical proportions. Also with Minnie Driver. *Keystone Theatre Cafe.*

HOUSEHUNT Two brothers attempt every trick in the automator's book to rid their mansion of its mischievous rodent. With Nathan Lane and Christopher Walken. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

SPICE WORLD Hate them if you must, but in their very own kooky, feel-good feature film, these overnight pop stars prove that girl power is more than just a handy merchandising slogan. Reviewed 1/29/98. *Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

STAR KID A young boy becomes a young superhero after discovering high-tech battle armor left by aliens. Now he must fight to save two worlds. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

TITANIC With a script that's entertaining but not refreshing, Cameron scuttles the allegorical possibilities of the Titanic and instead launches a shallow romance between Jack Dawson (DiCaprio) and Rose De Witt Bukator (Winslet). All the same, when the ship finally goes down, it does so with fitting spectacle and grandeur. Reviewed 1/1/98. *Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

TOMORROW NEVER DIES The supremely suave 007 returns to protect the free world. *Hoyts Clark's Pond.*

WAG THE DOG Barry Levinson's newest film is the story of the ultimate spin doctor (Robert De Niro) who buns a sex scandal involving the president by fabricating a war between the United States and Albania. A big-budget Hollywood producer (Dustin Hoffman) supplies all the needed accessories: battle footage, theme song and merchandising tie-ins. It's a ridiculous story that's impossible to swallow, which is why it's so much fun. Reviewed 1/22/98. *Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

WASHINGTON SQUARE Raised in a loveless home by her detached and wealthy father, a young woman (Jennifer Jason Leigh) finally receives the attention she has been yearning for in the overtures of a handsome but poor suitor — leading to a contest of wills between the young lovers and her suspicious, resentful father (Albert Finney). Based on the novel by Henry James. *The Movies.*

WINGS OF THE DOVE Based on the Henry James novel, this romantic drama stars Helena Bonham Carter and Steven Evens in the story of an American heiress abroad who falls in love with a man secretly in love with another woman. (Then again, maybe it's based on a J. Geil's song?) *Hoyts Falmouth 10.*

times

FEBRUARY 5, 1998 33

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, FEB. 6-12. OWING TO SCHEDULING CHANGES AFTER CBW GOES TO PRESS, MOVIEGOERS ARE ADVISED TO CONFIRM TIMES WITH THEATERS.

HOYTS CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S POND RD., SO. PORTLAND, 879-1511.
THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (R)
12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45
DESPERATE MEASURES (R)
12:30, 2:40, 4:45, 7:30, 10
HALF-BAKED (R)
7:35, 9:55
STAR KID (PG)
1:15, 4:10
GOOD WILL HUNTING (R)
1, 3:50, 7, 9:50
WAG THE DOG (R)
12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 9
AMISTAD (R)
12:20, 3:20, 6:30, 9:35
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG-13)
1:10, 4, 6:50, 9:30
DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R)
7:10, 9:10
HOUSEHUNT (PG)
1:20, 3:40

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5616.
BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG-13)
12, 3:10, 7:15, 10
WINGS OF THE DOVE (R)
12:30, 3:50, 6:45, 9:15
THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (R)
1, 3:15, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45
SPICE WORLD (PG)
12:50, 3:20, 5:15, 7:20, 9:40
DEEP RISING (R)
12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9
GREAT EXPECTATIONS (R)
12:15, 2:50, 5:50, 9:10
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG-13)
12:40, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
TITANIC (PG-13)
11, 3, 7*FRI-SAT ONLY 10:45
GOOD WILL HUNTING (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
WAG THE DOG (R)
12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE, 504 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND, 871-5500.
THE SWEET HEREAFTER (R)
6, 8:45*FRI-SAT 11:30
HARD RAIN (R)
9:30
THE BOXER (R)
8:30*FRI-SAT 1:15, 3:45
JACKIE BROWN (R)
9
THE FULL MONTY (R)
7*FRI-SAT 2, 4:15

MAINE MALL CINEMA, MAINE MALL ROAD, SO. PORTLAND, 774-1022.
BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG-13)
1:15, 4, 7:15, 9:55
DEEP RISING (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
GREAT EXPECTATIONS (R)
1:20, 4, 7:20, 9:50
SPICE WORLD (PG)
12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG-13)
1, 3:55, 7, 9:55
TITANIC (PG-13)
12:30, 1, 4:25, 5, 8:45, 9

THE MOVIES, 10 EXCHANGE ST., PORTLAND, 772-9600.
WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
FEB 6-10*FRI 5, 7:15, 9:30*FRI-SAT 12:30, 5, 9:30* MON-TUES 5, 9:30
ANTHEM (NR)
FEB 7-10*FRI-SAT 2:45, 7:15*MON-TUES 7:15
THE HOUSE OF YES (R)
FEB 11-17*WED-SAT 5, 9*FRI-SAT 11:30
SUN-TUES 7
BEAUMARCHAIS (NR)
FEB 11-17 WED-SAT 7*FRI-SAT 11:30*MON-TUES 5, 9

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.
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SWF, 37, 5'9", large build, enjoys dining in/out, dancing, taking walks, movies, quiet evenings, and reading. Seeking SWDM, 28-40, medium to large build, for friendship and LTR. **25311**

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Professional, petite, fit DWF, young 40s, brown/blue, N/S, kooky, witty, affectionate, sensual, fun-loving, sexy. Seeking kind, open-minded SWDM, 35+, N/S, with sense of humor, who can appreciate my finer qualities. **25303**

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TRUE GENTLEMAN
Honest DWF, 58, brown/blue, medium build, enjoys dancing, movies, walks, long drives on Saturdays, having fun, and socializing. Seeking a gentleman, early 60s-70s, N/S, NO, for friendship. **25317**

RELOCATED,
need a guide. Vivacious, outgoing SWPF, strawberry-blond, N/S, great smile, loves music, theater, candlelight dinners, dancing, movies, cooking. Seeking honest, energetic, fit SWPM, 40-55, who has a good outlook on life, for friendship, possible LTR. **25320**

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FIT, FUN AND FRISKY
SWPF, 37, N/S, with sense of humor and adventure, and passionate desire to explore the finer things in life, both inside and out, seeks SWPM, 30-45, N/S, with similar features, to create life's possibilities. **25289**

FUN & FRIENDSHIP
first, I'm down-to-earth, spiritual, energetic, wacky, vegetarian, loves yoga, reading, nature, movies, walking, mid-20s. Seeking friendship first with mid-30s guy who's N/S, NO, intelligent, sometimes homebody/adventurer, spiritual, vegetarian, compassionate, romantic. Let's create fun, friendship, support. **25118**

RECOVERING FROM
mistaken identity. Strawberry-blond DWF, 32", spiritual, sexy sense of humor, old enough to know better, writer, teacher, healer, N/S, light drinker. Seeking available male companion, any race, probably over 40, who enjoys dancing, movies, plays, books, breakfast, conversation, laughter. **25117**

FINE, FEMININE,
foxy, Young, 40s, 5'9", exceptional, slender shape, professional, educated, secure, hip, sweet, creative, dancer, desires youthful, toned, attractive, sincere guy with spark and sense of humor. **25110**

SEEK ADVENTURE,
talk, passion, and cuddles. Attractive DWF loves the blues, cooking, quiet times, ocean, kids, and animals. I'm 39, independent, down-to-earth, honest, determined entrepreneur, with good sense of humor. Seeking self-sufficient man with life outside of bars and sports. **25122**

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
To meet intelligent, handsome, professional who loves to laugh, have fun, has honesty, sincerity, integrity, knows who he is, what he wants from life. Me: attractive, fit, outgoing professional, has her act together, financially/emotionally secure, loves travel, dining, cozy fireplace conversations, great friends, living life to its fullest. **25123**

SWEETEN MY COFFEE
with a morning kiss. Fit DWF, 40s, seeks morning kiss, warm smile, gentle touch, kind heart, open mind, good sense of humor from N/S, male optimist with spirit of adventure still intact. Bath/Brunswick area. **25207**

LOVELY, KIND,
feminine SWF, 43, seeks companion. Accomplished, well-educated professional, with many interests, appreciates and reciprocates integrity, respect, gentleness, humor, interest in life beyond home and work. Enjoys animals, kids, outdoors, arts, reading, gym. Hoping to meet similarly attractive friend. Letter/photo appreciated. **25270**

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN:
Bright, sensitive, driven, fit, attractive, 28, brown/brown SWJP female. Seeking beautiful Jewish man: 27-36, tremendous character, who is communicative, moral, N/S, educated, professional and possesses healthy mind, body, and soul. Looking to share friendship, fun, and LTR. **25205**

NEW TO AREA
Creative, sensitive SWF, 25, is looking for responsible but fun, 25-35ish guy, with whom to watch scary movies, share entertaining evenings, and make "30 minute brownies in 20 minutes." **25231**

I'M POOH BEAR
looking for my lost hunny! Mature, affectionate, sensitive, lovable SWF, 22, brown/brown, 5'6", enjoys movies, candlelit dinners, walks on the beach, dancing, wants LTR. Seeking SWM, 25-36, similar interests, 6' or taller, fit, handsome, and ready to spoil me rotten. **25230**

LET ME BE YOUR...
New Year's resolution. Sweet, compassionate, mature SWF, 21, black/hazel, enjoys dancing, romantic getaways, movies, cuddling. Seeking SWM who's fun, responsible, 25-30, 5'8" or taller, job security, ready to settle down, who can show me what love really is. **25229**

IT DOESN'T MATTER
if you see this ad... SWF, 32, 5'10", 140lbs. I'm still going to do the things I said I'd do. If you joined me, however, it might be amusing to watch you fail. Perhaps you're brave and fine, and noble. Maybe I'll catch you. **25255**

FIT, ATTRACTIVE
brunette, DWF, 42, medium build, pretty brown eyes, educated, conservative businesswoman, enjoys daily exercise, brew pubs, movies, bookstores, comedy clubs. Seeking DWM, fit, educated, accomplished professional, reliable and trustworthy. Rugged build with old football injuries a plus. **25254**

LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS
known me is how you will feel when you meet this attractive, 40s, fun-loving, caring, emotionally stable, independent, intelligent DWP. Seeking a fairly tall, medium weight, easygoing, good-looking, intelligent, liberal gentleman, 45-55, who is healthy, N/S, social drinker, financially secure, and unencumbered. **25253**

INTELLIGENT
Athletic, sensual, attractive, and witty SWPF, 29, 5'8", brown/green, feels equally at home in museum on the field. Seeking other half of soul. SWDM, 30+, appreciates travel, wine, good food, microbrews, and contact sports. I will watch the game with you. **25252**

WORKOUT PARTNER WANTED
Like to sweat? Don't talk a lot, but not a lot? Think life means risk? Live on a wild side? Call me! I'm DWF, 47, 5'4", 120lbs, good-looking, strong, fast, smart. I love wilderness, inner and outer. Any age, younger men beware. **25178**

LET'S MAKE '98
great! Time for me to get a new man in my life! Are you the one? SWDM, 28-40, with sense of humor, honesty, and no head games. For friendship, LTR. I'm a SWF, 38, with same interests. Portland area. **25171**

DARING
Sexy, long-legged, raven-haired beauty, 44, zany-humored, nature-loving, swimmer, mediator, sage but irreverent, intermittently articulate. Seeking lively, "do-right" man, 40-50, funky around the edges, with twinkle in the eye. **25176**

PETITE, BUBBLY
blonde seeks a SWM, 29-45, no kids, who actually has time for a relationship, lives in the greater Portland area, is marriage-minded. I am looking for that special guy. Are you the one? Sense of humor a plus. **25166**

SEEKING AN EQUAL:
attractive, funny, smart, adventure-some, balanced, secure, happy, animal lover. I'm same: slim, blonde, 41, ready to laugh and share the good life. Very particular, positive, and unwilling to waste time on those who don't fit the bill. **25137**

LITTLE RED...
Riding Hood seeks Big Bad Wolf. Me: late 20s, blonde/hazel, medium build - God was kind! Professional, fun-loving, likes to have fun. You: late 20s/early 30s, bit B/M, with sense of adventure and a little romance. Race you to Grandma's! **25139**

MATE IN '98!
Attractive, athletic SWM, 39, who enjoys the best pizza, chicken wings, fine dining, needs a mate in '98. My spare time is for running, movies, music, the arts. Only attractive non-smokers, 30-40, with similar interests and energy apply. **25175**

ATTENTION...
CBW shopper! Professional DWM, 33, with outgoing personality, romantic, nature, no sports addictions, loves Seinfeld, massage, computers, and lazy Sundays. Seeking SWF, 25-40, with unique sense of humor and passion for life. Call now, operators are standing by! **25108**

NEVER MARRIED
40ish professional, educated, traveled, secure, unattached, no baggage. Recent but not new to Northern Maine. Seeking N/S, 25-35, Bangor-P.I. Talk or write first? **25111**

ART THOU ME...
tawny weir cat I seek? Hast thou dreamt of a white tiger padding along beside thee? Then come let us prow the land together: beneath the pale, opal moon, becoming one with the night. Let us bathe one another in sweat...well, just imagine! **25097**

men & women

INTELLIGENT/HANDSOME?
Do you have a great sense of humor? Are you N/S, 32-45? If so, maybe you could make me laugh! I'm attractive, intelligent, witty brunette, 38, 5'11", with many interests. My future looks bright, care to join me? **25277**

A LA RECHERCHE
Fiery, petite, intelligent, French-Canadian SWF, 50s, enjoys reading, dancing, bowling, meeting new people, drives along Maine's coast. Seeking honest, sincere SWM, 50-something, with good sense of humor, for fun evenings out, quiet dinners, and good conversation always. **25286**

men & women

TALL & ATTRACTIVE
Well-traveled, well-read man, 40, successfully self-employed, looking for partner, 28-40, athletic, attractive, sincere, intelligent. Sense of humor a must. **25300**

ARE THERE ANY...
good girls left for a shy, attractive, male, 30? I enjoy working out, movies, dining out and quiet evenings at home. Seeking fit, attractive female, 20-34. **25322**

MAN BITES WOMAN
Sick of the romance dog house. I'm 32, writer, cook, 6', 185lb, brown/blue, educated, Portland resident, neat, more weight-training, books, film. No mere moon howling. I'm so lonesome I could die. Meet me for microbrew and serious wag. **25323**

SOMEDAY!
There will appear before my deep brown eyes a SF with the most incredible smile, gazing eyes, petite, who laughs, talks, speculates, dreams, and shares it. Someone who loves beaches, stars, and is going to risk it. U.B. 30-40. **25273**

WRITER/BARTENDER,
30, looking for woman who wants to live Northern Exposure-like/Spriffles Girl-like/Nearby life, who's excited by creating, learning, reading spiritual/lyricism, outdoors, gardening, community, log cabins, fitness, creative fun, wine, and prefers relationships and self-betterment over career and money. **25116**

BOSTON BY DAY
the ports by night. SWM, financial broker, very good-looking, 39, 5'11", athletic build. Seeking intelligent companion for adventurous sojourns, both country and urban, as well as oceanic. **25109**

ATTENTION...
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men & women

NIGHT SHIFT
Looking in all the wrong places. SWM, blue-collar, 33, 5'9", brown/brown, smokes, night drinker, would like to meet a woman to share free time. I work at night. I enjoy good food, movies, hiking, biking, and going out. **25183**

DO YOU LIKE TO SNUGGLE?
Honest, sincere, caring, Catholic SWM, 31, 5'9", 160lbs, brown/blue, teacher, enjoys all outdoor activities, especially camping, skiing, motorcycling. Seeking average to slender-built SWF, 22-32, who's caring. Portland. **25278**

SEEKS SPECIAL LADY
DWM, 33, light smoker, light drinker, seeks sweet girl next door to share conversation and the three Cs: cooking, camping, and computers. **25279**

QUITE A GUY
Easygoing, sincere, attractive SWM, 59", nice build, brown/blue, interested in reading, outdoors, movies. Seeking mature, quiet, easygoing, sexy female, who's not into the whole "I'm a lady" thing. Portland area. **25304**

DON'T KNOW MUCH...
about history. All I ask for is honesty, simply, curiosity, not to mind chemistry. Seeking sophisticated, smart, intelligent, optimistic female, youthful 50+, like Jane Fonda, to match similar ones. **25307**

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is here? Just pick up the phone and call you'll never know if you don't try! 900-370-2041... calls cost \$1.99 per minute, 18+.

NOT PICKY
Tall, thin, good-looking male seeks someone to spend time with, and go to all types of events together. Beach walking, hiking, fairs, concerts, etc. I'm very open-minded and willing to meet anyone and everyone, so give me a call. **25312**

YOUNG COMPANION
I have the basics: comfortable home, astute mind, kind heart, and many interests. Seeking complement to share daily living, special moments, innermost feelings, and adventure. You enchanted by music, art, nature. **25313**

LET ME RESCUE YOU
Blond hair, blue eyes, fit, fire fighter, looking for hot flame. Looks/age are not important, please have a sense of humor and be down to earth. Children welcome. **25345**

SINGLE DAD
DWM, 41, 6', 175lbs, single dad, attractive, compassionate, caring, spiritual, romantic, family-oriented, work in progress, not into games/scene. Looking for SWF, 30-45, with a big heart, beautiful inside, for friendship possible LTR. Must love children. **25355**

NEW TO AREA
WM, 60, 6'1", 200lbs, looking for WF, 50+, who likes beach walks and other outdoor activities, dining in/out, quiet but good times. Friendship at first, possible LTR. Will answer all! Portland/Southern Maine area. **25250**

WRITER/BARTENDER,
30, looking for woman who wants to live Northern Exposure-like/Spriffles Girl-like/Nearby life, who's excited by creating, learning, reading spiritual/lyricism, outdoors, gardening, community, log cabins, fitness, creative fun, wine, and prefers relationships and self-betterment over career and money. **25116**

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AUTO RACING,
drinking, camping, and more. If this sounds good to you, call, my message will tell much more. Looking for SWF, 25-52. Me: DWM, 47 years young, 5'10", 150lbs, sense of humor, easygoing and fun. **25189**

IN A PERFECT...
world it's sunny, never rains, birds sing, everyone smiles. Can't promise this but can offer you a chance at serious relationship full of fun and good humor. Let's melt the ice touching our lonely souls. Greater Portland, WPM, 48, 6'1", 230lbs, brown/blue. **25322**

BRUNSWICK TO CANDEN
The ocean for my front yard and no one to share it with. This SWM, 45, 6'1", 165lbs, attractive, intelligent, seeks lady with an exceptional slender shape, educated, serene, literary, enjoys walking, the arts, exploring spiritual side with a few laughs in between. **25226**

LOOKING FOR...
fun-filled 1998 and beyond. Easygoing, good-looking DWM, 41, seeks attractive, proportionate, college-educated, N/S, 30+ woman. Possibilities: galleries (non-shooting), movies (non-exploding), music (non-Kenny's), talking (listening also available). **25310**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
DWM, 49, intelligent, professional, with varied and many cultural and artistic interests, seeks full-figured, long-haired, intelligent, fun-loving, Christian lady, with sense of humor, her interests, to share conversation, laughter, and good times. **25251**

MAGNETIC...
mysterious, merry, merry mammoth, modest, mellifluous, manly, mid-man, mid-aged, mid-coast male, 49, might make magnificent match for marvelous maiden. Minky mistress might make marvelous match for masculine man. Monstrous, mendacious, mediocre, moth-eaten, miserable, morbid miss, must make my match, maybe, miracle mate! **25135**

TEDDY BEAR
Unassuming, warm, understanding, caring, widowed WM, 45, 5'6", 140lbs, accomplished, down-to-earth, loyal, handsome, very romantic, sensual, will give you what you want. You? Smoker/social drinker, preferred. Take me as I am. **25182**

IF YOU CAN...
understand the me, I can understand the you. SWM, 20, 6', 140lbs, blue eyes, easygoing, open, and honest, enjoys music, dancing, and much more. Looking for SF, 18-25, open and honest, for mutual, intimate relationship. **25170**

SERIOUSLY LOOKING
Average-looking, professional DWM, 41, 5'10", desires thin or average, available female, 20s, 30s, or mid-40s, for LTR. Like auctions, flea markets, dancing, or relating my life. **25179**

WANTED: LARGE,
feminine-shaped woman, SWM, 38, 6'1", 150lbs, smart, funny, successful, affectionate, attractive, no dependencies, seldom drinks, commitment-minded, type A personality, conservative views. Enjoy home life, ocean, motorcycling, boating, cookouts, friends. Seeking female, intelligent woman, Call, let's talk. **25145**

SEEKS ONE CLASSY
lady, SWCM, 30s, brown/blue, medium athletic build, 58, definitely a good catch for a SWPF. Seeking the ages of 32 and 38. Avid reader, love instrument music, Portland activities. Common sense kind of guy. Emotionally and financially stable. **25516**

MATURE FREE SPIRIT
Woman, 50+, wanted by artist, 40. Must be sexy, funny, and worldly. Like Jello baths, taking, lacy underwear, imported beers, dogs, swearing, food, philosophy, oil massages, laughing. No prissies! Laughing at life a must! **25168**

NEW YEAR,
New possibilities. Multi-faceted, articulate, athletic, artistic SWM, 44, hiding in Portland white-collar jungle seeks special intelligent, sensual, attractive, trim SF, 35-50, with humor, adventure, easygoing nature, for relationship. Love arts, hiking, canoeing, reading, dancing, traveling, picnics, classical music, stimulating conversation. Possess quick wit, easy smile, reliability, honest, reasonable shortcomings. Am more given than taker, more playful than serious, more affectionate than distant. **25194**

YOUNG AND FUN
SWM, 26, new to area and looking to meet a lady who is either short or long. Have roommate and would love to double date. Call now for some fun. **25195**

SEEKS MS. RIGHT
Honest, attractive SWM, 41, good guy, never married, novice skier. Seeking honest, romantic SWF, 27-38, with sense of humor. I enjoy sports, dancing, dining, golf. Extra points for incurable romantic. **25280**

SEEKS WICCAN LADY
WM, 35, seeks Wiccan/Witch lady in the South Casco area, to help me come into the rest of the circle. **25283**

LET'S PLAY
44 year-old, in great shape, 6', brown/blue, 180lbs, very successful in business. Seeking very attractive, intelligent lady, 28-35, to have a good time. **25285**

EXPRESSIVE
Spontaneous, affectionate DWPW, with sense of humor, enjoys music, dancing, travel, wine, outdoors. Sunday papers, candlelight. Seeking radiant, playful, self-assured, down-to-earth, intelligent, sensual woman, with similar interests, 34-48, for soulful relationship. **25292**

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Are you missing that special someone in your life? Call 900-370-2041 and find that person today! Calls cost \$1.99 per minute, 18+.

SEEKING A PRINCE?
Want the most life hat to offer? GWM, 38, 6', 160lbs, brown/hazel, wants a partner to enjoy life today and tomorrow. I'm a N/S, social drinker, for dating, and other adventures. **25334**

VINTAGE 1954 CHEVY NOVA
Fire red with blue interior, Terzel engine, two previous owners, very low mileage; runs on sushi. Seeking long-term driver. 43+, loves music, dancing, art, adventure, reading, islands, cigars, cognac. Call for test drive. **25308**

KNOCK KNOCK
Who's there? Me: attractive, fun-loving GWP, 42, 5'8", 150lbs, fit, N/S, N/D, enjoys music, dining, movies, beaches, hiking (pedal and motorcycle), softball, skiing - no moderation. Seeking attractive female with same interests, for friendship, and possible LTR. **25310**

WE HAVE HER NUMBER! What are you waiting for? Call 900-370-2041 and see if she's the one for you! Calls cost \$1.99 per minute, 18+.

IS THERE...
anyone out there who could help me gently come out? I'm seeking you if you're kind, sincere, and very patient. Looking forward to my first journey with conversation. Seeking possible partner, maybe new friend. **25274**

JUST SAY NO...
to stereotypes! Not prejudiced according to age, race, weight - it's what's inside that counts. I'm a N/S, 35, sensitive, honest, sense of humor. Myself: intelligent, funny, sincere, affectionate, love music, movies, stimulating conversation. Seeking possible partner, maybe new friend. **25274**

INEXPERIENCED...
SGF seeks experienced SGF to show me the way. I'm 23 years old, 5'6", 120lbs. I enjoy clubs, movies, coffee, and conversation. You: soft, honest, romantic, and caring. Let's talk! **25173**

LET ME BE YOUR
teddy bear. Extremely good-looking, strong, silent type who likes to listen. 41, romantic, outdoorsy, big heart, big blue eyes. Seeking N/S, non or light drinking, mature, outgoing, health-conscious, sensitive woman. I wait for you. **25134**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Feminine GWF, 25, Picoan love goddess, is ready for adventure of the mind, heart, and soul. The twist that my key? Long conversations by candlelight, with wine and a kindred spirit to share life with. **25293**

MATURE & SECURE
Settled GM, 40, 5'8", 180lbs, blond, green, who's passionate, romantic, and fun, seeks lady for either short or long-term. Hoping for LTR. Activities-oriented, loves music, gardens, cooking. Let's have some. **25306**

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EASTERN PROM: NM female for large 2nd floor apartment. Ocean view. \$350/mo. + 1/2-774-8354.

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FEMALE STUDENT, NM, looking to share with Male or Female 2BR duplex. \$290/mo. + 1/2 utilities. 774-8576.

FEMALE, NM, sober, loves 2 small dogs. To move in or seek apartment in or around Portland. 879-6322, leave message.

GM SEKS RESPONSIBLE GAY/FRIENDLY person to share large colonial home in nice Portland neighborhood. 3BR, large livingroom, den, both with cable TV/VCR, nice kitchen, large newly remodeled bathroom, W/D, secure off-street parking, all utilities included. \$400/mo. I have one friendly dog. Call 773-0264.

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GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE looking for M or F to fill room in our house. 1 mile from USM. We are college aged, friendly and fun. Looking for the same. \$300 includes everything. 775-7486.

LAID BACK FEMALE roommate wanted for 5 rooms on Danforth. \$320/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Heat included. Smokers OK. No drugs. 879-9948, evenings, before 9pm.

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WINDHAM WESTBROOK LINE: 3BR, RANCH, MF, 15min. to Portland. OFFR. 302. \$350/mo. includes all, W/D, off street parking, smoking O.K. Call 892-9227.

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PORTLAND: SMALL ONE BEDROOM, third floor, Brackett St. Open and airy. All skyighted, off street parking, ideal for one person. \$400/month, call 766-2385.

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SUNNY ROOM, SHARED BATH, unfurnished, quiet, no smoking. \$55-65/wk. utilities included. 871-1390.

OFFICES/RENT

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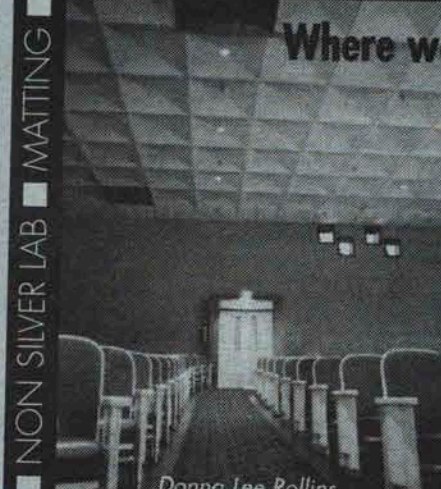
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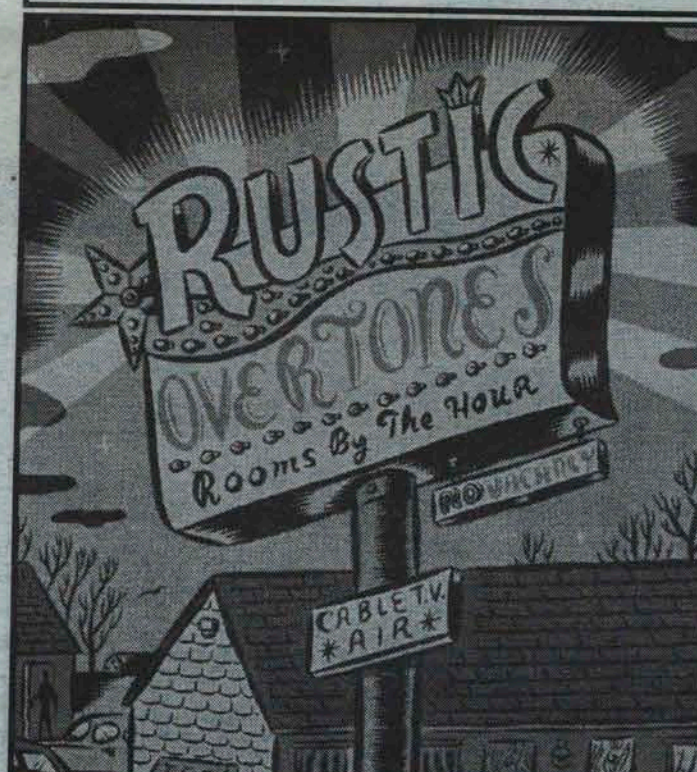
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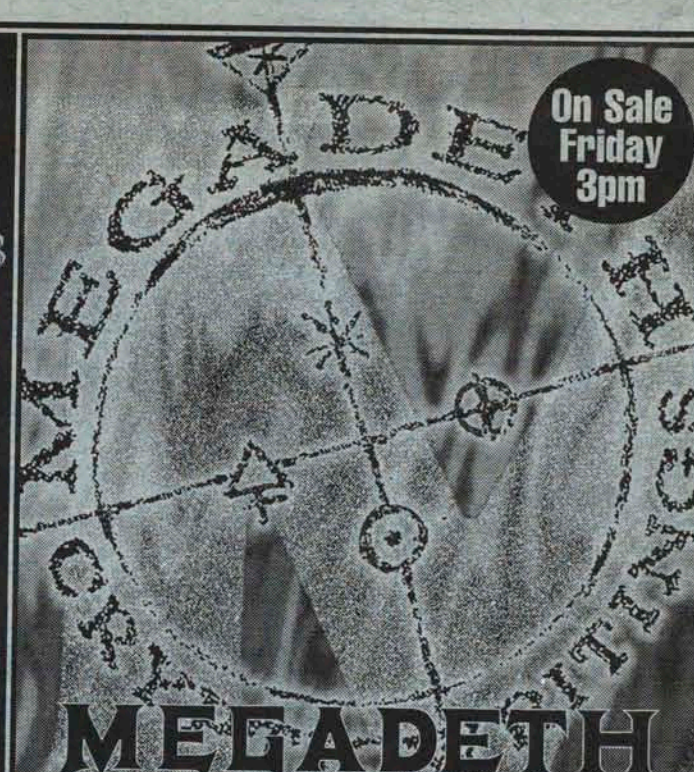
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